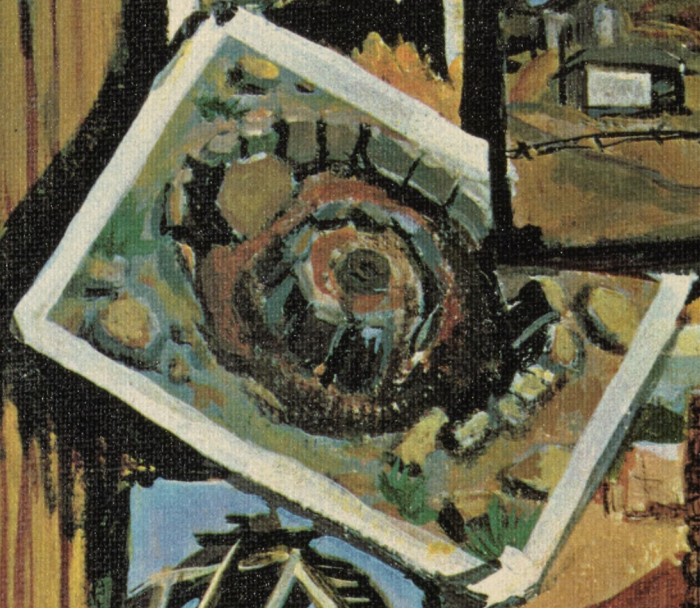


INYO

1866-1966



DORCAS BIRCHIM

Legend—Front Cover

Upper left—Guidons carried by Companies I and D, 2nd Cavalry, commanded by Lt. Col. George S. Evans, July 4, 1862, Camp Independence. Guidons now exhibited at the Capitol at Sacramento.

Next left—Tall brick chimney and part of old mill, Panamint City. Dates from 1874.

Left center—Arrastra, a circular device for reducing gold ore. Used by early Spanish.

Right center—Old mill at Commetti Mine, Fish Springs.

Lower left—Water wheel at Commetti Mine, Fish Springs.

Lower center—Adobe walls of original fort, Camp Independence.

Upper right—Wickiup or Toni, an Indian house near Camp Independence.

Lower right—Slim Princess engine, an affectionate nickname given passenger trains on the Carson Colorado Narrow Gauge Railroad.





INYO

1866 - 1966

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Introduction

This book has been compiled in an effort to present a factual and vivid story of the development of Inyo County from 1866 to 1966.

The County Board of Supervisors, as sponsors of this book, wish to give recognition and express their gratitude to the many individuals and organizations who have given freely of their time, pictures and writings to this pictorial and written portrayal of the history of Inyo County.

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Board of Supervisors

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Upper—When white men first came to Owens Valley the Piute Indians lived in habitations constructed with lashed willow poles as a frame work with tule reeds and brush interwoven to ward off the cold and winds.—
(Collection of Eastern California Museum).



Center right—At a bend in Owens River, near the present site of Laws, stood a cabin resembling this drawing, erected by A. Van Fleet, a pioneer entering the county from the north. Lower—Drawing from description of Charles Putnam cabin built on Little Pine Creek (now Independence Creek).

INTRO

First Attempts At Settlement

When the white man first came into Owens Valley he found the Indians in possession, and living in a willow and tule house, the construction of which differed with the seasons. White man dubbed it a "wickiup" but to the Indian it was a "toni" or house of straw. Such houses were from eight to fifteen feet in diameter with stout willows set in a circle, bent and lashed together at the top, and then willows, boughs, and tules were woven in horizontally.

The first white men were mere travelers through the Valley, but in August of 1861 and the months following, events took place which ushered in the beginning of settlements in various parts of the Owens River Valley.

A. Van Fleet with other cattlemen came into the Valley from the north and scouted as far south as Lone Pine Creek, then returned to the northern end of the area and built a cabin on the bend of the Owens River near where Laws stands today. Just how long this cabin was used by Van Fleet is not known, but during the next few months he took part in several skirmishes with the Indians in that vicinity, and was present at the battle on Bishop Creek in April of 1862. It was likely used as a shelter for several years by both cowboys and travelers.

At this same time Charles Putnam of Tulare Valley, noting the heavy travel coming from the Owens River Valley, built a stone cabin on Little Pine Creek (now

Independence Creek) with the idea of establishing a trading post. The walls of this cabin were four feet thick, its over-all size, 48 feet long by 38 wide. Two "fort-holes" of two feet square were made in each of the four walls; a huge fireplace at one end provided heat for the large room; and the roof was finished with hand-hewn clapboards. Long poles were kept inside the building to use in case the Indians set fire to the roof which they did frequently. This building became a home, trading post, hospital, and a "fort" in times of danger. It was the first permanent habitation in the Owens River Valley built by white man, and was used continuously until 1876. It was known as "Putnam's" or "Little Pine" and the settlement that grew around it took the name of Independence in 1866.

In August of that year also, as is told in detail in another article, Samuel A. Bishop stopped on a creek which now bears his name, and erected two small wooden buildings. No one living today remembers such buildings, but it appears that from that date people lived on or near this site.

Late November of 1861, Barton and Alney McGee brought a herd of cattle into the Lone Pine area from Tulare Valley and planned to spend the winter. They built a cabin on the creek, and during that winter and the following spring were joined by other people, forming a permanent settlement.



One of the early Lone Pine buildings is pictured above. It was built by Charles Begole, who helped lay out the town and served on the first Board of Supervisors. — Eastern California Museum Collection.



Among the earliest of white visitors to Inyo County were members of the '49'ers, who, in their decision to settle in California came from the east in the emigrant groups that chose a course through Death Valley. The history of their passage through this valley is a tale involving many hardships. The desolate vistas that met their sight are now dotted with winter vacation spots welcoming thousands of tourists each year. — U. S. Borax Photo.



Some of the early ore of Panamint was shipped hundreds of miles over desert wastes, then to England for processing but costs proved too much and the erection of the "big mill" of the Surprise Valley Mill and Mining Company was completed June 29, 1875. Painting was taken from an early photo of the plant of which only a few ruins remain to mark the location.



(Collection of C. Lorin Ray)



(Collection of C. Lorin Ray)

Upper left—Samuel Addison Bishop, who drove a herd of cattle to northern Owens Valley in 1861 from Fort Tejon. He was to tarry in this vicinity only a short time but long enough to lend his name to the settlement that would rise nearby. Center — Frances Bishop, who accompanied her husband into Owens Valley. Bottom — Early day prospectors had to be hardy men to survive the rigors, as is evidenced by the scene of supplies going into the Beveridge District.



(Collection of Art Hess)

'49er Bishop Gave The Town Its Name

Samuel Addison Bishop lent his name to the northern Inyo community and the creek nearby but for nearly a century thereafter very little was known of the founder.

It was learned that he, his wife and some cowboys had driven a herd of cattle to the vicinity in the mid-summer of 1861 after a 51 day drive from Fort Tejon. They found the location much to their liking and ideal for their cattle with an abundance of tall grass and sweet water.

It is recorded that a habitation was built a short distance west and south of the present town and the holdings were given the name of San Francis Ranch.

The advent of the Civil War and business changes caused the stay of the Bishops to be of a short duration.

When planning took place for the celebration of the city's centennial a fortunate contact was made with the George S. Bishop family of Palo Alto and it was through the research of the grandson and great grandson that the background of the illustrious Samuel was made known.

His was a colorful life from his birth in Albemarle County, Virginia on Sept. 2, 1825, through the years of his schooling in Missouri, where besides acquiring a knowledge of the three R's he became adept in blacksmithing and millwright work, to serve him well in later years.

With the discovery of gold in the West the call of adventure and wealth led him to join a party headed in that direction on April 15, 1849. The course set was to Santa Fe, along the Colorado River to the outskirts of El Paso, Texas and later to the Territory of Arizona.

Hardships of travel caused him to abandon his oxen and wagons at the future location of Fort Yuma and proceed a distance of nearly 700 miles to Los Angeles, arriving there Oct. 8, 1849.

After a short stay and before his finances were completely depleted, he journeyed on to Mariposa and

Stanislaus counties where placer mining was making history. Here he suffered a reversal when flood waters were to erase the dams and other construction necessary for the recovery of gold.

His first contact with the military happened when he volunteered with Company C in the "Mariposa War." Here he served with distinction as company sergeant in the unit which was credited with the capture of Chief Yosemite and a major part in quelling of the Indian disturbance of that period.

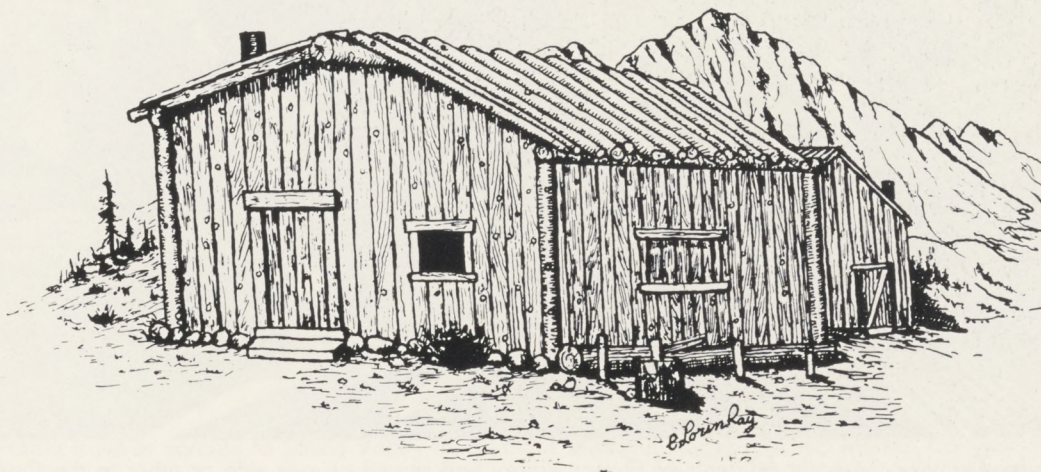
He was known to become associated with Gen. Beale in conflict with Apache Indians, in government contracts and stock raising.

The building of Fort Tejon became a certainty when Bishop deeded a square mile of land to the site. A provision in the deed caused the land and buildings to revert back to Bishop when the post was abandoned. It was about this time that thoughts of the establishment of Kern County became active and Bishop had a part in the planning and served a short term as supervisor.

Changing his residence in the late '60's he was connected with the San Jose and Santa Clara horse car railroad, president of the San Jose Savings Bank, operated silver mines and was prominent in lumbering, winery and agricultural operations.

Sam Bishop had a fondness for pinon nuts and his untimely death was caused by the lodging of a pine nut kernel in the appendix vermiformis, a small intestine which had no known function. Inflammation had occurred, and despite an operation performed by leading surgeons, Bishop's life ended far from the battlefields. His death was in June 1893.

His wife, Frances A. Bishop, two daughters and a son survived him. His widow passed away in 1923.



It is quite certain that no one alive remembers how the Bishop cabin looked. The drawing followed the only description on record: "A habitation was constructed from logs and lumber whip-sawed in the nearby Sierras."



Upper picture—Many of the early residents of Owens Valley had served on one side or other in the Civil War. Apparently before their ranks became too thin they met to have this group photo taken. Lower — Considerable pride was taken in their appearance and musical ability and the Bishop Creek Brass Band was constantly in demand to play for parades, dances and other public events.

(Collection of C. Lorin Ray)



Upper—An early traveler enroute to Saline Valley found night setting in as he reached Marble Canyon. After caring for his stock his evening meal was prepared and bedroll unwrapped. In the morning he was up early, ready to complete the arduous journey.—Photo by Harry Mendenhall. Lower—At the corner of Church and North Main Streets in Bishop, at the present location of Josephs Store, stood the first church in the county. It was presided over by Reverend Andrew Clark. In the background is viewed North Main Street of those days.



(Collection of Philip Butler)

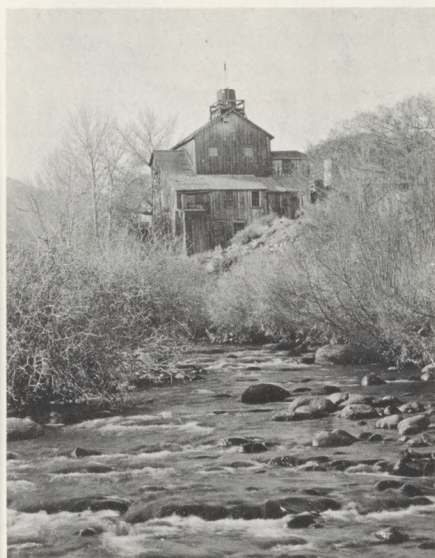
With the leafing of trees and greening of mountain brush sheep bands were driven up the valley to summer ranges after spending the winter on the desert. Bottom — With the boom of Candalaria, Nev. came a call for many of the farm crops and other needs of the camp, Inyo teamsters and long-line teams met the challenge.

(Collection of C. Lorin Ray)





(Collection of C. Lorin Ray)

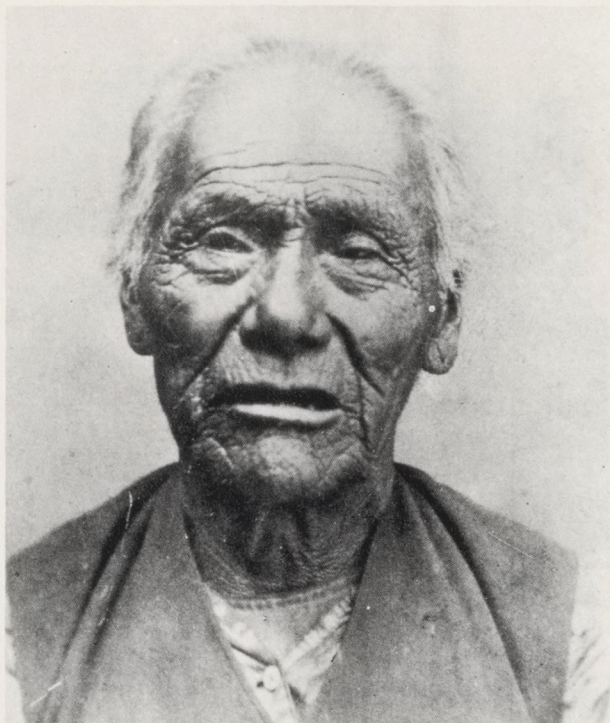


(Collection of C. Lorin Ray)

Upper left—One of the largest producers of metal wealth in the county was Cerro Gordo. Picture was taken during the declining years. Center—Kilpatrick Flour Mill was situated on Bishop Creek near present site of Plant Six of So. Calif. Edison Co. It served nearly four decades. Bottom — Inyo Hotel, around the change of the century served travelers and men of the narrow gauge railroad crews.

(Collection of Florence Smith)





(Collection of C. Lorin Ray)



(Collection of Philip Butler)

(Collection of Rhys May)



Upper left—Joe Bowers, Owens Valley Piute, who recognized his people could only realize ultimate defeat during the Indian War but whose arguments were unheeded. He served as a guide with the white soldiers and was later given a small pension. Lower left—Here a group of young Indian ladies pose in the dress of the day. Most objected to having their picture taken. Center right—Bart McGee, left, and his brother John were active in most of the fighting that took place during the Indian troubles.

There Was Indian Fighting To Be Done

The arrival of the earliest visitors to the county was accepted by the Indians in a sullen way but when herds of cattle began to appear the temptation became too great and marauding soon began. A herder came upon a Piute in the act of driving off an animal and shot him, setting up the reason for revenge by the Indians.

To present the story of Indian hostilities and encounters, that played such an important part in the history of Inyo, requires an almost unlimited amount of research and elimination of the smaller incidents, that concept of accepted length might be had.

An address delivered by James E. Parker at a celebration in Lone Pine on July 4, 1876 furnishes information that is believed to be quite reliable. At this time the events were still quite clear and less chance of distortion and enlargement were evident. Fortunately too, material from personal interviews of old timers who took active part have been recorded, allowing for the history to be preserved.

A short time after the herder incident a white known as "Yank," from Aurora, was to stop at Van Fleet's cabin at Owensville for the purpose of outfitting before continuing southward. Crossing the river he was taken by Indians and never seen again. The time was Jan. 1862.

As there was a large gathering of Indians camped near Bishop at that time, the settlers immediately took steps to contact their head man Chief George, that a treaty might be made and further bloodshed avoided. Surprisingly, a document of truce was affected which was attested to by Chief George, Chief Dick and Little Captain Jim; each marking his X and for the settlers by: Samuel A. Bishop, L. J. Cralley, A. Van Fleet, S. F. Graves, W. A. Greenley, T. Everett, John Welch, J. S. Howell, Daniel Wyseman, A. Thompson and E. P. Robinson.

Apparently it was another case of the young bloods of the tribe not accepting the dictates of their chiefs, for the lull was short and the storm was to break again.

Next contact occurred when a group of Piutes sought admission to the Van Fleet cabin and were refused. They were to travel northward to besiege the cabin of prospector Taylor at Hot Springs (Benton). Taylor was slain but took a toll of 10 before dying.

In March of the year Lone Pine was to experience a major skirmish when a large number of marauding reds was to be contacted by a group of settlers. The rocky terrain was to chalk up a score of 37 slain Indians and injuries to J. S. Border and Thos. Hubbard (or Harness).

Following this affray both sides were to augment their strength as possibility of an Owens Valley Indian war spread throughout the land.

Enough importance was attached to witness the arrival of military reinforcements in April when Col. Geo. S. Evans made camp at Independence with detachments

of 10 men each from companies D, G and I of the 2nd Cavalry, California Volunteers. The detachment had exchanged shots with Indians enroute north and were to be responsible for the release of several besieged in a stone cabin at Little Pine (Independence) on their initial offensive move.

It was during this period that the tribesmen sent out couriers to enlist renegades from surrounding areas to strengthen their forces and interest the support of Joaquin Jim, a notorious savage from Fort Tejon vicinity, who was later to meet a mysterious death in Round Valley. The settlers, worried with the situation, which included the amassing of an estimated 1500 to 2000 warriors, sent out calls for help. The call fell on the ears of Aurora residents and a group of 18 citizens were to respond under the command of Capt. John J. Kellogg, an army officer. Alney McGee was one of this party, reported W. A. Chalfant, pioneer historian.

Southern neighbors, alarmed by the massing of Indian strength in the north, organized under their captain Mayfield and moved up the valley to aid and attack. At Big Pine they were to find the murdered bodies of Hanson and Townsend, gave them a frontier burial and proceeded on.

Chalfant writes that the Mayfield and Kellogg party met at a point slightly south of Bishop. A compromise with the figures of fighting men with Parkers reporting would place the figure of about 50 whites to face a provocative array of possibly 1500 Piutes and renegades fired with attack. At least the ratio was very lopsided.

It is recorded that Sheriff Jim Scott of Mono, armed with a warrant for Joaquin Jim had joined with his posse as the battle began. In the height of battle, while lighting his pipe, Scott was to raise his head too high and receive a mortal wound. Pleasant, and Morrison of the citizen soldiers were to receive fatal wounds.

A summary of this engagement stated that the whites were to suffer a retreat, but did not include the acts of gallantry evidenced, sufficient to record the bravery of the white forces against overwhelming odds.

The dark of the moon was to cover a cautious retreat of the white band and the sunrise was to reveal at least 15 Indians who would cause no further trouble.

The day following was another of horror. Lt. Noble, leading Co. A of Fort Churchill arrived to supplement the citizenry and all turned back to again encounter the warrior horde at Round Valley. On contact another furious battle was to ensue with the overpowering strength of the Piutes again to cause a retreat. Capt. Mayfield, another citizen and a soldier were to lose their lives.

The seriousness of the situation led to a general stampede as settlers gathered their stock and other be-



(Collection of C. Lorin Ray)

(Photo by Harry Mendenhall)



Upper left—With tufts of cotton stuck on his chest by pine pitch and a head dress of bird's feathers Chief John was a popular Indian dancer at the fall festivals or "fandangos." Lower left — Black basket collection, part of which presently is on display at the Eastern California Museum. Right — A "huba" was the Indian name for the carrying basket. When not traveling the baby could be propped up against an object and view what went on.

longings and left their homes under guard of the troopers.

Col. Evans, thinking well of the valley's potential, used his influence in having assigned to him 250 soldiers for his return in June of the same year. Moving in rapid fashion up and down the valley, several skirmishes were to take place in which the cavalrymen proved superior to the degree the tide seemed to be shifting. Many of the departed miners and stockmen began returning.

A band of 13 Indians were slain near Big Lake (Owens Lake) on July 2nd and on the Fourth the stars and stripes were hoisted over Camp Independence.

A calm occurred until Mar. 1863 when citizen McDonald was slain at Big Pine and one of the Ayers brothers seriously injured. The incident was followed closely by the slaying of Mr. Bellows near the Union Mill and Lt. Doty and a soldier were killed at Black Rock.

It was early in March that the McGee and Summers party, enroute south from Owensville, sought to ford the Owens River north of Independence in an effort to escape pursuing Indians. It was necessary to cut the horses loose from the wagon they were using and on reaching the far bank discovered that Charley Tyler, a negro traveling companion, had been captured by the Indians while trying to lasso one of the horses to effect his escape. The party journeyed on to the fort and the location has since been known as Charley's Butte. It was said that Indian chieftans later confessed to the burning of the negro who had accumulated several notches on his gun from earlier skirmishes.

March was also to mark major combat when a number of hostiles were engaged in a running battle near Big Pine. A number of Indians were killed and two soldiers wounded.

In April Indians stole some cattle at George's Creek, slaughtered them and moved southward. Pursuing soldiers and citizens came upon their camp on the shore of Owens Lake. The band was estimated to be in the neighborhood of 60 and the death tally was to reveal only one escaped the rath of the attackers. Milo Page of the party was said to have counted 33 bodies in one area of the battlefield. Considerable spoil was recovered including some of the McGee party belongings.

During this period several attacks were made on isolated outposts in mining and range areas with more Indian deaths occurring than whites but the vengeance of the soldiers was to lead up to a plea for peace by Indian Chief George and Dick. Messengers were sent out through the tribes from Coso north and daily more and more came in to surrender. As June passed it was estimated that 1500 were assembled and taken to the Tule River and Ft. Tejon reservations. Joaquin Jim was not among them. Many of the Indians strayed aside on the journey and it was only a short time until the return of many others became noticeable.

Before the close of the year Long, Erickson and Parker were to lose their lives in Round Valley by Indian ambush and other attacks were to happen in the mining camps, enough to again alert the citizens to band themselves in retaliation.

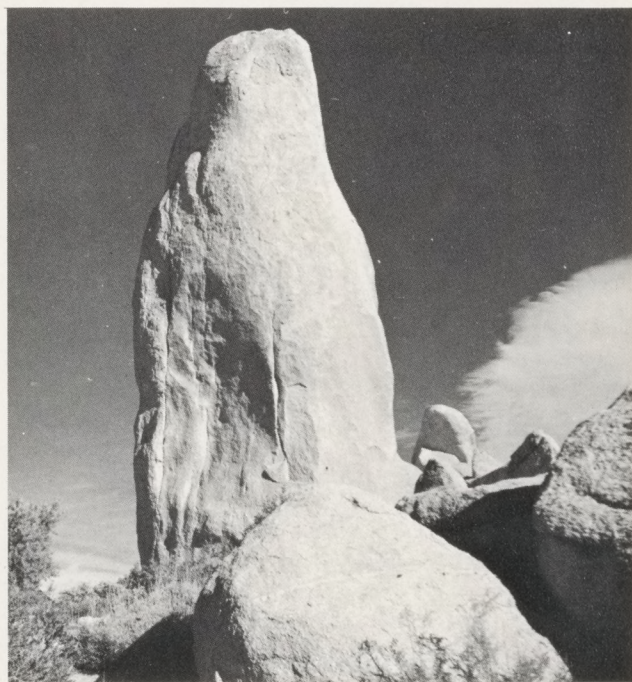
At midnight Dec. 31, 1864 an assemblage at Lone Pine was to be told of Mrs. McGuire and child at Haiwee Meadows who, during the absence of McGuire, had been murdered by the savages. The woman's body was said to have taken 13 arrow wounds, the boy's seven.

Inflamed by the atrocity, a large group of whites was quickly assembled and in pursuit of the killers. The main part of the band was tracked to a point at the mouth of Owens River. The dawn of Jan. 5, 1865 witnessed a surprise attack by the infuriated whites who drove the reds into the water and without thought of giving quarter killed an estimated 100. It was known that women and children suffered the same fate and the affair was through the years to be looked upon by many with shame.

Except for a few minor battles the punishment inflicted at the lake was to break the spirit of the tribesmen and begin an era that was to see the reds and whites finding ways to live together in peace.

And thus ended a span in Inyo history marked with the smell of gun powder, viciousness, bloodshed, cowardice, wrongs entered into by both sides, conflicts unreported, but all a part of the tragedy and drama that was to be the backdrop of more pleasant years ahead.

(Mary DeDecker Collection)



Winnedumah is the name given an 80 foot granite rock located on the skyline of the Inyo Mountains east of Independence. The landmark became the subject of an Indian legend. One version states that the Waucobas of the Sierras and the Piutes of the eastern range were at war when a Waucoba brave spied twin Piute brothers descending the Inyo range. He set an arrow to the string of his bow and shot it 15 miles across the valley and pierced the body of one of the warriors whose fallen body turned to stone. The other Piute was halted in this flight by the command "Winnedumah" meaning "Stay where you are" and immediately turned to a shaft of granite.



Upper—Grave site of March 26, 1872 earthquake victims slightly north of Lone Pine. Here 16 were buried in a common grave. Mt. Whitney on skyline extreme left and Mt. Williamson on right background. Lower—Grave marker which was sponsored by Eastern California Museum Association and erected by the Serventi brothers. Earthquake was of high intensity and flattened many buildings in Lone Pine and Independence, including the first Inyo County courthouse.—Photos by Tom Ross.



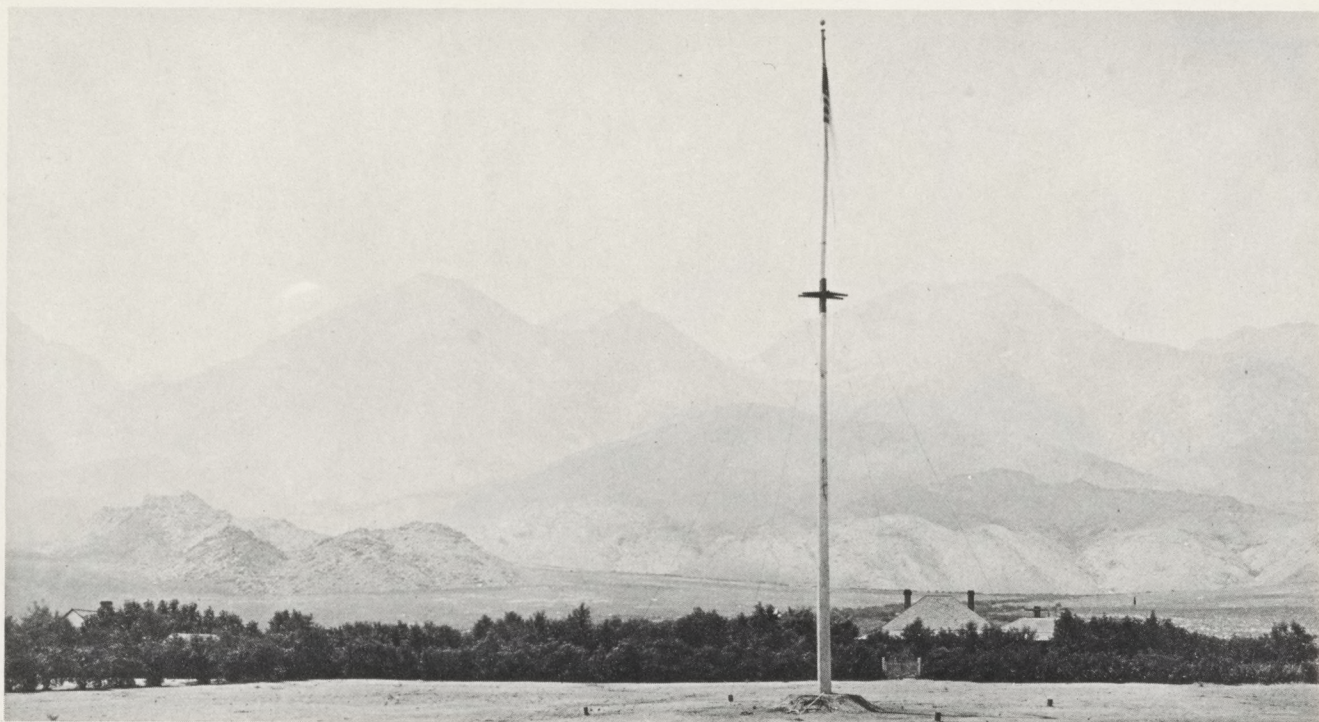


(Photo by Harry Mendenhall)

Upper—Early travelers and herdsmen over Westgard Pass stopped here to pay their toll for passage, replenished their water supply and continued on to Nevada points. Lower—The Model T. played an important part in construction of early telephone line.

(Art Hess Collection)





Upper—Looking west from parade grounds of Camp Independence, with Sierras in background. Center—These were adobe barracks housing the enlisted men of the post. Dimensions were 96 x 27 feet with pine floors and shingle roofs. Lower right—Looking north from parade grounds is seen the adobe hospital. — All photos U. S. War Department.

INFO

Camp Independence

With the outbreak of the Civil War following the fall of Fort Sumter on April 13, 1861, many changes came to the lands in the West. Seeking to escape taking sides in this great conflict, many people turned their faces in the direction of the new lands, and thus the Westward Movement was given a new impetus. This in turn brought increased trouble with the Indians who heretofore had considered this to be their home.

Most of the regular United States Troops at the outbreak of the War had been located at camps and forts in the West. This group of military men had to immediately form the nucleus for the large army needed in the East and South. They were therefore withdrawn from the West, leaving in some cases merely a skeleton detachment or the post was completely abandoned.

California being a fairly new State and the most populated of the western area, was in a state of apprehension. There was fear of an attack from the sea, or from inland through Arizona and Nevada Territories. Early New Mexico Territory was over-run by the Confederates and all plans made to take over Arizona. These were stepping stones to California.

Wagon trains and settlements throughout the West were open to attack from the Indians who, sensing the absence of the soldiers, made a more desperate attempt to drive white man from their lands.

In July of 1861 Congress passed the Volunteer Employment Act as a means of raising a huge army quickly. The service under this Act was not to be more than three years nor less than six months. The volunteers were placed on the same standard as the regular army in regard to pay, allowance, and status.

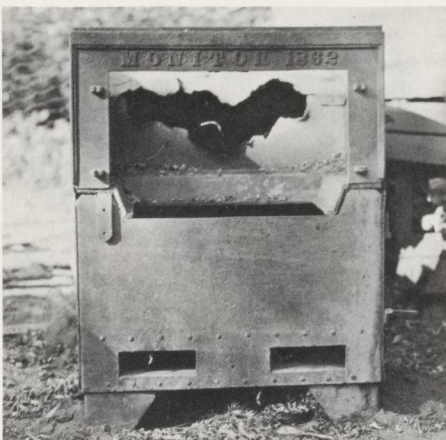
Men in California eagerly responded, and the State raised an army as large as the total United States Army prior to the War. These men immediately manned the

posts throughout the West from the Canadian border to Mexico, and in addition were ordered to establish many new camps and forts. Camp Independence was one of the new ones established.

After having made a scouting trip into the Owens River Valley, and ascertaining the problems, Lieutenant-Colonel George S. Evans prepared an expedition into the Valley in June of 1862, preparatory to establishing a military post. He brought with him 201 men of Companies I, D, and G, Second Cavalry California Volunteers. These men were mainly boys from the "Mother Lode" country who had hoped they might be sent East to fight for a "home state" which they had left to seek fortunes in California. Instead they were sent to defend California in case of an invasion and to quell Indian uprisings.

Lieutenant-Colonel George S. Evans and his men landed at Oak Creek on July 4, 1862, and established a post which he called "Camp Independence" in honor of the Day. He said in his report, "I ordered a flagstaff erected and the 'old flag' with all its stars upon it was hoisted to the breeze, with 'three times three' given most heartily by the men, and a salute fired with small arms."

The original fort was built of adobe with shingle roofs and pine floors. It stood for ten years, until March 26, 1872, when it was destroyed by the great Earthquake of that date. A new fort was built that year on the same site but all buildings were made of wood. These were big white buildings, showing very much the Eastern influence. The post was abandoned five years after it was rebuilt, but in all it stood for fifteen years, 1862-1877. Most of the buildings were torn down when it was abandoned, but the home of the Commanders, moved to Independence in 1883, is now preserved as the "Commander's House" and is open to the public.



(Eastern California Museum Photo)

Old cook stove used at Camp Independence. Now in possession of Johnny Symmes.



(Eastern California Museum Photo)

Picture shows the caves in which soldiers lived before camp was built.

The Oldest Living Things



(Photo by Russ Johnson) (U.S.)

The Ancient Bristlecone Pine Area is located in Inyo National Forest in the White Mountains northeast of Bishop, California.

To reach the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Area turn off of Highway 395 one-half mile north of Big Pine. The Civic Club - Forest Service sign will direct you to Westgard Pass where you will follow the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest sign.

Along this route you will see a sign designating the Fossil Area—you may take a sample of fossilized rock to cut and polish, but commercial collecting is not permitted.

At Schulman Grove the U. S. Forest Service has set up two self-guided tours. The one to Pine Alpha (the first Bristlecone Pine to be found to be over 4,000 years of age by Dr. Edmund Schulman of the University of Arizona) is the short walk.

The two mile hike through Methuselah Walk contains the majority of the older living specimens including the oldest living tree—4,600 years old.



on) (U. S. Forest Service Photo)

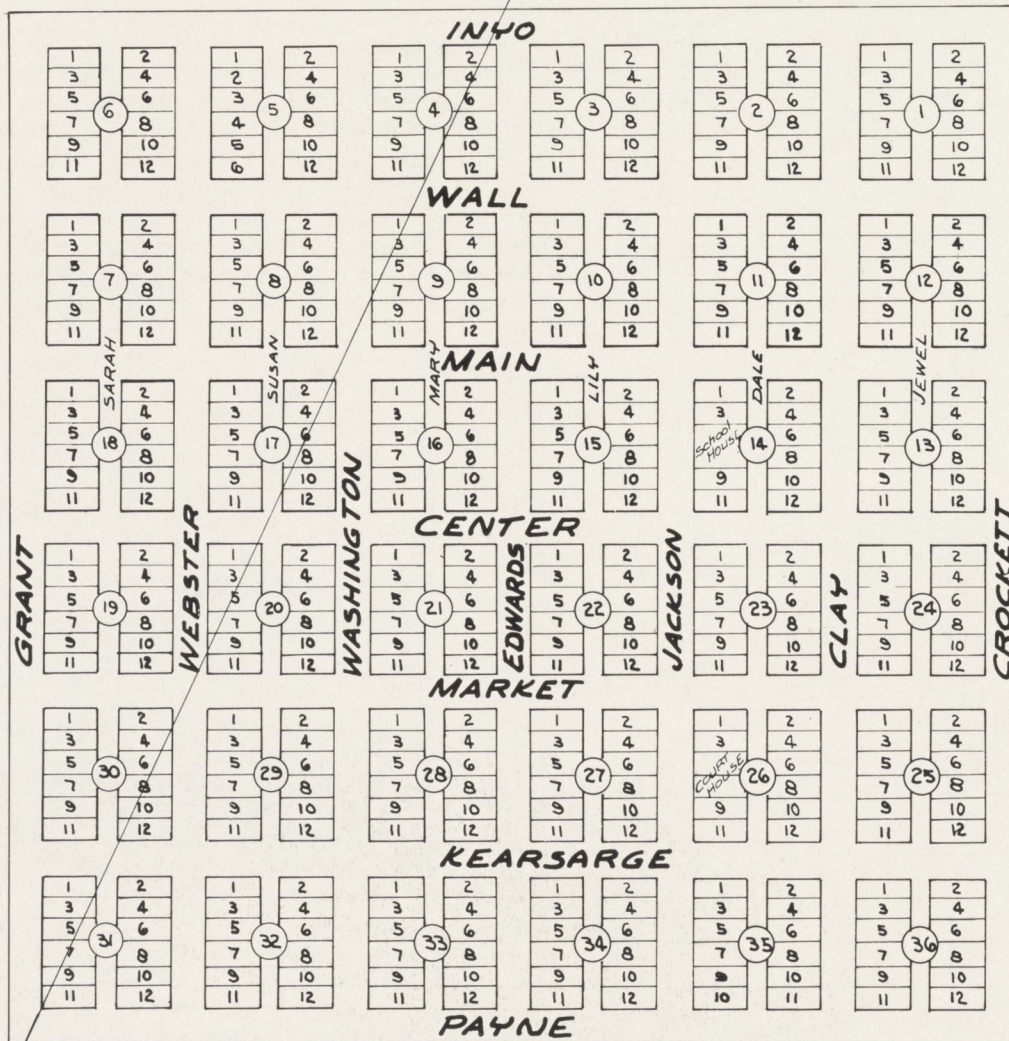


(Photo by Russ Johnson)

It is another 12 miles to Patriarch Area. Here is the Patriarch himself—36 feet and 8 inches in circumference which makes this tree the largest Bristlecone Pine in the world. The Forest Service has again set up self-guided tours for your enjoyment.

The Bristlecone Pines have managed to survive in the high elevation and the harsh climate. Trees grow only from 20 to 40 feet in height, but have been twisted and eroded into beautiful forms by the elements. To compensate for the dearth of food and water and still continue to live, the greater part of the tree dies so that one portion may continue to live. You will find many trees with just one branch or a portion living while the remainder of the tree is dead. The Ancient Bristlecone Pine Area is a place of superlatives where the photographer will happily click away while the observer will thrill to all there is to see.

From their lofty perch the Bristlecone Pines have watched the march of events in Inyo County—the migration of the Indians from summer to winter territory; the arrival of the white men and the troops; the grazing cattle and sheep; the destruction of the great earthquake; the cultivation of the valley; the growth of the towns to the present where now the area thrives with the influx of people looking for recreation and a glimpse of the past.



INDEPENDENCE

INYO C²

CALIFORNIA

Laid out by THOMAS EDWARDS Feb 13 1866

Filed for Record May 12 A.D. 1866

S. P. Moffat
Recorder

Explanation
 Steets 80 feet wide
 Alley 40 " "
 Blocks 300' Square
 Lots 50x130' feet
 Scale 200 feet = 1 inch

COPIED 12-1-65-L.A. BELL

The First Townsite or Subdivision

A little white house with two adobe rooms covered with siding, still standing in Independence, dates from the days of Thomas Edwards who came to the Owens River Valley in 1863 and laid out a townsite, naming it Independence.

Thomas Edwards and family drove a large herd of cattle into the Valley, and acquired Putnam's Trading Post and considerable lands adjoining. He had a contract with the Military Post nearby to furnish beef, and through the Trading Post kept the settlers in supplies as well as those traveling through the country. Accommodations were provided for ten travelers at a time, and "dutch-oven-meals" were served on home-made tables and benches.

Thomas Edwards laid out a town on the site acquired, six blocks wide by six long. The town lay from northwest to southeast, and the streets running in this direction were named for great men of the United States with the exception of the one in the middle of the town which he named Edwards. The streets running easterly, westerly, had ordinary names, although the one on which the little white house was built was named "Market" for the main street in San Francisco, and another one just a

block south was named "Kearsarge" for a Naval battle which had just taken place between the North and the South. Alleys were named for the two immediate women in the Edwards family and for distant relatives.

A letter written from "Little Pine" (Putnam's), June 14, 1865, said, "Very heavy immigration has created a demand for a town which is being built on Thomas Edwards land and has been named Independence."

The townsite was completed February 13, 1866, but not recorded until December 5, 1866. This is the oldest patent recorded in the County.

In order for the Edwards children to attend school the family left in 1865 or 1866, but Thomas Edwards came back often to dispose of his property. There is a letter on file in the Eastern California Museum at Independence, written June 8, 1868, by Thomas Edwards to his son who was at Benicia. The letter is written from Independence and tells of his work in selling town lots.

It would appear from stories and records that the little white house with its two adobe rooms was among the first built on the townsite, and is now the oldest house in Inyo County. It was lived in until a year or so ago, and is now used weekly by an artist group.



(Eastern California Museum Photo)

Over 100 years old — The Old Edwards House in Independence, built by Thomas Edwards about 1863 on property he had purchased from Chas. Putman. It was on this site when the first military post of Camp Independence was being finished. It saw the last of the Indian Wars and heard much conversation on the great battles of the Civil War.



(Collection of C. Lorin Ray)



Upper—In the late '80's this photo was taken looking up North Main Street, Bishop. Pedigreed stock were being groomed for the county fair. Lower—Matched white horses pull the second prize Harvest Festival float in a parade of 1912.

TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

Barstow, Bishop, Big Pine, Independence,
Keeler, Lone Pine, Randsburg, Victorville.



December, 1916

DESTROY ALL PREVIOUS ISSUES

Left—Sixty years ago this telephone directory served the county. It listed 36 exchanges or toll stations in California with connection at Keeler with Keeler—Darwin Telephone Line, San Bernardino and Mojave with Pacific Telephone and Telegraph and at Lone Pine with Inyo Co-operative Telephone Line. Interesting was the notation: "You can now talk to San Francisco with ease from any of our offices."

Right—Bishop Exchange had 302 subscribers to be the largest with Keeler showing four installations. Page size of the 32 page directory was 4 by 7 inches. A ring to operator brought the request for "number please" and a patron could memorize most of the easy numbers used most often. Instructions contained: "To insure prompt disconnection give one short ring after hanging up your receiver."

CASH MEANS A BIG SAVING AT THE BISHOP MARKET

See what real money will do by
TELEPHONING NO. 7

BISHOP EXCHANGE

A

Abelour Ranch Co., V. E. Holehan, Mgr. 66F-15
Acme Dairy, Babby & Sons13F-4
Albright, E. T., residence.....31-Y
Albright, S. G., ranch.....97F-11
Andrews, F. M., ranch70F-12
Arcularius, F. H., residence69-R
Arcularius, Geo. L., ranch.....68F-15
Arcularius, L., ranch.....66F-5

B

BALDWIN, F. M. & CO., store108-W
Beasley, N. C., ranch.....66F-4
Bedford, F. W., residence.....55-X
Bedford & Halliday48-R
BERNARD BOOKSTORE75
Bernard, J. W., residence.....79-R
Bigelow, E. S., ranch.....91F-4
Birchim Ranch68F-4
BISHOP DRUG CO., store82
BISHOP FRENCH LAUNDRY12-Y
BISHOP ICE COMPANY16-W
Bishop Light & Power Co., office.....33

SHOES

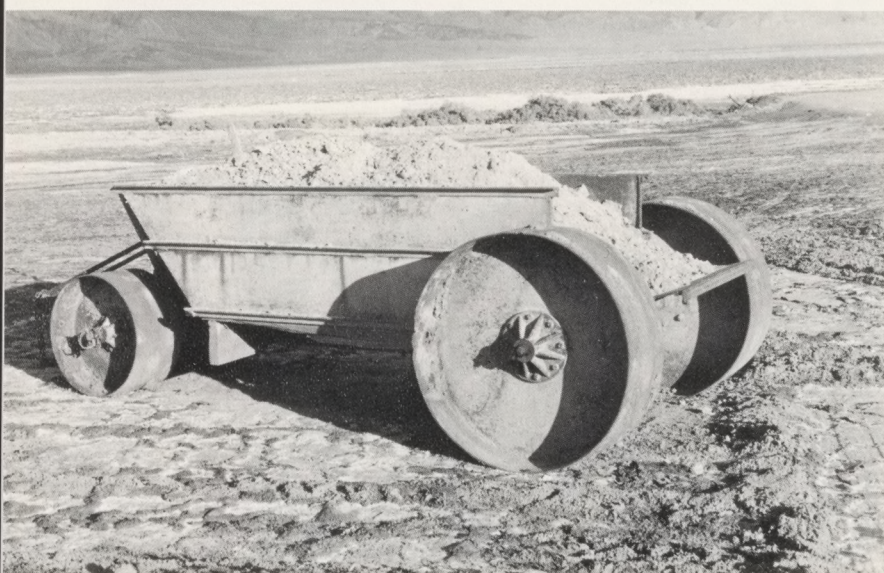
For Men Women and Children

AT BALDWIN'S

PHONE 108-W

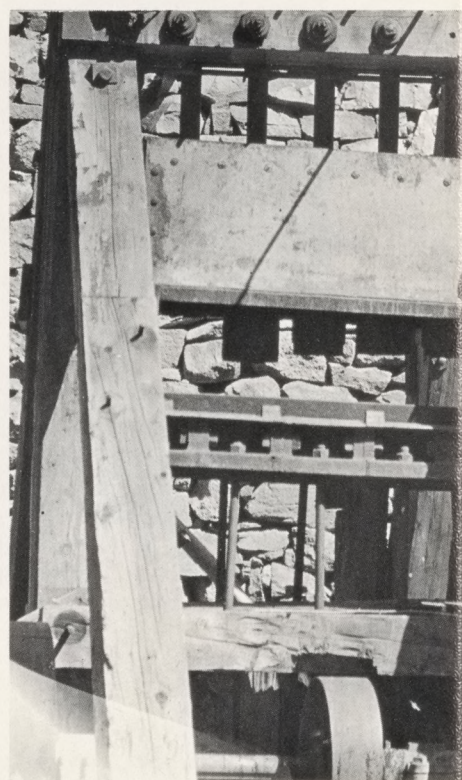


(Art Hess Collection)



(Mary DeDecker Collection)

Upper—An arrastra was one of the early methods of crushing ore to be treated by quicksilver in recovery of metal values. The picture depicts the process where drag stones pulverized the rock deposited in a circular rock lined basin. Center—Special built wagons were used to haul salt from the dry lake bed in Saline Valley which was transported over the Inyo Mountains to railhead. Right—A five stamp mill for ore reduction was part of the mining activities in the Beveridge District.



(Art Hess Collection)

Robust Mining Marked Inyo's Century

To tell the story of the county's mining history including the many small operations, processes of production and milling, supporting factors, stock manipulation, statistics, etc., would complete a volume of great size, for Inyo's mineral wealth was to hold a prominent place in the progress of the state and nation.

In more or less chronological order the subject is covered:

The Mormon Church was known to send out prospectors who reached the county in 1854, were credited with finding the first gold on the desert, known as the Amargosa placers. In 1858 came the discovery of silver ore in the Panamint mountains. The latter discovery was far removed from a water source suitable for refining process, and although a small amount of ores may have been treated in an ancient furnace at Anvil Springs, if any values of note were produced they would be attributed to the efforts of Mexicans, next to work the ledges. Dates of these operations are uncertain.

Lured by the story of the lost "Gunsight" mine, Dr. Darwin French and party were to prospect southern Inyo and discover ores of the Coso District in 1860.

Hearing of the rich find, M. H. Farley was to be "in on the ground early" but as to his financial gain at this time the record does not reveal. He later operated successfully a mill, processing ores of the Olancho mine, which had to be packed and hauled to the mill that bore his name. During this period it is reported that as many as 300 men were seeking wealth in the area, a figure that might well have been magnified.

Darwin Falls deposits were found about this time and named after the doctor.

Mineral samples transported to Visalia and San Francisco probably sparked the early incorporation and sale of stock, much of the money subscribed never found use in the development, its presence lost in shady manipulations.

The next main exploration is hinged to the entry of the Dr. S. G. George and Col. H. P. Ross parties, traveling through Walker Pass in 1859 or 1860. The parties were credited with discovery of the Union lode a few miles southwest of Independence.

There was to occur a pause in activity as the Owens Valley Indian War broke out and miners left for the safety of outside communities.

Some of the early mining districts established were: Telescope Mining Dist., Panamint mountains, Tulare Co., July 10, 1861 including six claims of 324 lineal feet each; Russ Mining Dist., Inyo Mountains, Tulare Co., Aug. 8, 1861 with 17 claims of 300 lineal feet each; Mar. 8, 1860.

In 1862, a soldier stationed at Camp Independence, found some rich ore in the range east of Independence

which later developed into the San Carlos operation with considerable activity evidenced there the following year.

It should be remembered that these days were not the best for progressive mining, for as a resident stated: "We cannot prospect and watch Indians at the same time and we cannot prospect with a rifle."

The Consort Mining Co. was at this time working claims north of Laws, known as the Golden Wedge, which was in part responsible for establishment of Owensville on the banks of the Owens River.

In the central part of the valley Bend City and Chrysopolis were to join San Carlos to enjoy recognition in the mining world while ranchers and cattlemen, visualizing a ready market and homesteading opportunities, were to enter the valley in increasing numbers.

In the fall of 1864 the Kearsarge mine was discovered at a high elevation west of Independence and early work resulted in disclosure of "jewelry rock." A sizeable camp was born and favorable production was noted until the fatal day of Mar. 1, 1866 when an avalanche of snow was to thunder down from the crests above, to nearly obliterate the camp and prove the reason for abandonment with much valuable ore said to be still in existence. Later a safer campsite was established and there ensued a time of litigation and mismanagement. There were many who staunchly supported the thought that wealth still existed in the crags of Kearsarge.

It would be a big challenge to a researcher to set down a total figure of the production of Cerro Gordo. Many have tried it and the variance lies between \$12,000,000 and a round figure of \$30,000,000. Choosing a compromise the total would be \$18,000,000—sufficient to place it safely as one of the county's largest mineral contributors.

A variance also exists in the name of the original discoverers of "Fat Hill," but until better authentication comes to life, the credit will go to Pablo Flores and companions in 1865.

Its history does not include a list of widely known financiers such as the Comstock or Panamint City, but its lifetime is marked with many innovations in refining of ores, of transportation and its burly and boisterous background listed the work of Chinese laborers, gun toting desperados, checkered-vested card men, lye tongued, long lined mule skinnners, stage drivers and stage robbers, rouged Chilean and Mexican dance hall girls and the administrations of midwives and bullet searching doctors, as well as the words of those skilled in legal matters.

Scars mark the hillsides of a great camp whose life was never fully recorded, because recording media wasn't



(Photo by B. Carl Huddleston)

Above—One of the most modern of mill operations is housed in this structure owned by Union Carbide Corporation northwest of Bishop. Zig-zag road in the background leads to high level mine. Lower Left—Bottling of the waters of Coso Hot Springs in the early 1900's. Lower right—One of the early attempts to recover borax was made at this Saline Valley plant.

(Art Hess Collection)

(Collection of C. Lorin Ray)



available and those who could have given first hand information have moved on.

The census of 1870 showed 1952 residents with a majority engaged in mining or related work with quartz mills accounting for the dropping of 100 stamps.

Apr. 1873 was the discovery date of Panamint. Its history is well contained in *The Story of Inyo* and *The Silver Stampede*. Suffice to say it harbored desperados in numbers, saw big money exchanged, recorded sizeable production figures with some of the mine's output processed in England, lent itself to the colorful history in which two senators were much involved and was to mark its demise with the shutting down of its main mill in May 1877.

Quickly succeeding Panamint were such camps as Darwin, Skidoo, Greenwater, and a long, long list of other ventures which would make history.

The production of metals was not the only contribution of the mining industry. Non-metallics presented a sizeable picture when statistical reports are reviewed.

In 1885 locations were to be made on the shores of Owens Lake to result in Inyo Development Co., Natural Soda Products Co. and other lakeside industries in the recovery of saline deposits.

This less glamorous side of mining was to include the production of borax in Death Valley, calling for use of the famous 20-mule teams, salt production on the dry lake of Saline Valley, brought to shipping point by the use of an aerial tram over the Inyo mountains, pumice and other materials that would serve industry and add to the wealth of the nation and local economy and overcome, in part, the loss of agricultural gains which were to be effected when waters of the county were to be diverted by the City of Los Angeles to serve in development of Southern California's agricultural and industrial growth, a story of infamous history well known by its many writings and not soon to be forgotten.

From the research of Mary Louise (McKinley) Greenberg, it is developed that the history of Inyo's greatest mineral producer, Union Carbide Corporation, Mining and Metals Division may be traced back to the time Civil War veterans prospected the Pine Creek area in search of gold.

It is certain that the colorful history of tungsten and molybdenum mining at this location evidenced how cruel could be the acts of nature in losses by fires, snowslides and floods; saw courageous backers rebuild and repair; experienced shutdowns when markets fluctuated; yet perseverance and management had planned well for the impact of World War II and the Korean conflict by expansion of facilities which various functions operate in elevations from 7,000 to 10,800 feet high.

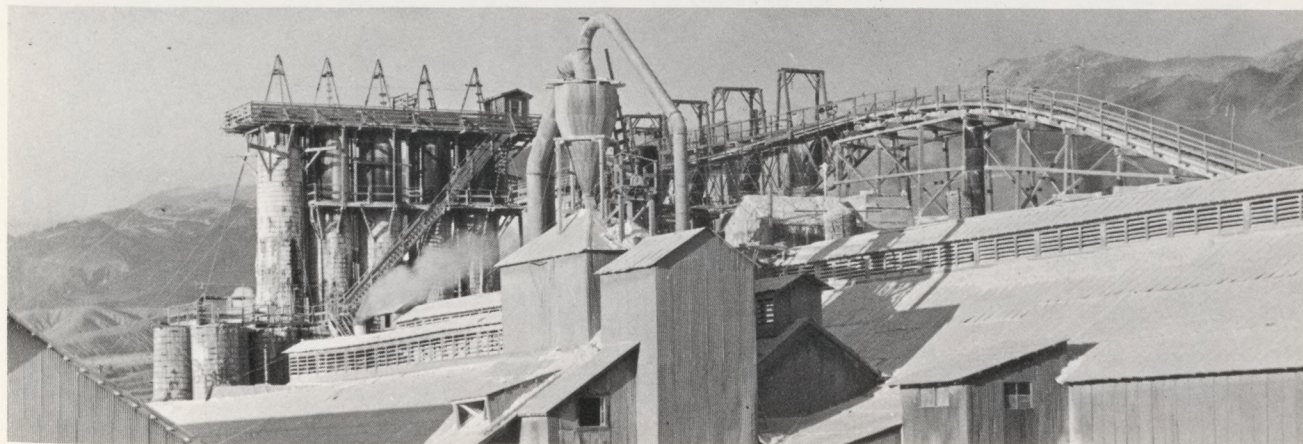
In the post war period steady advancement and improvement of processing equipment in the development of a high purity tungsten plant, which is also credited with recovery of molybdenum, copper concentrates and small amounts of gold and silver.

The future indicates stability not common to mining operations as a whole, employment factor and contributor to expansion of the county's tax base.

To report statistically the values of Inyo's mining output the following is taken from the Div. of Mines, State Mineralogist Report of Oct. 1938, which in no sense reflects a complete total because of dates inclusive (1880-1937), and as usually happens, contains only the figures of a reporting agency and does not consider hidden metal secreted in leather pokes to later be weighed on gold scales as payment for provisions, drinks over the bar, gambling debts or hidden from the stockholders.

The report showed for the period \$8,911,328 in gold, silver \$5,877,669, lead to the amount of \$8,505,429, copper \$497,483, zinc \$2,571,613, borax \$8,466,870, soda \$11,883,779, soapstone and talc \$954,106, miscellaneous stone value \$794,789 and miscellaneous and unapportioned \$27,739,936. It presents a sizeable grand total for that span of years of \$76,203,002. If the gleanings of the Mexican arrastras from 1860 to 1880 and the bullion of the quartz mills plus the values in tungsten and other metallics from 1937 to date were added Inyo certainly would not have to take a back seat.

The miscellaneous and unapportioned column of the report contained, among other values those of: Dolomite, Fuller's earth, pumice, alum, borates, building stone, salt, limestone, magnesium, tungsten, quicksilver, talc, marble, sulphur, onyx, bentonite, pottery clay and molybdenite.



(Photo by Curt Phillips)

Near Keeler the Natural Soda Products Company operated this refining plant in the recovery of saline deposits of Owens Lake. The plant and company camp have now been dismantled.



(Photo by Harry Mendenhall)

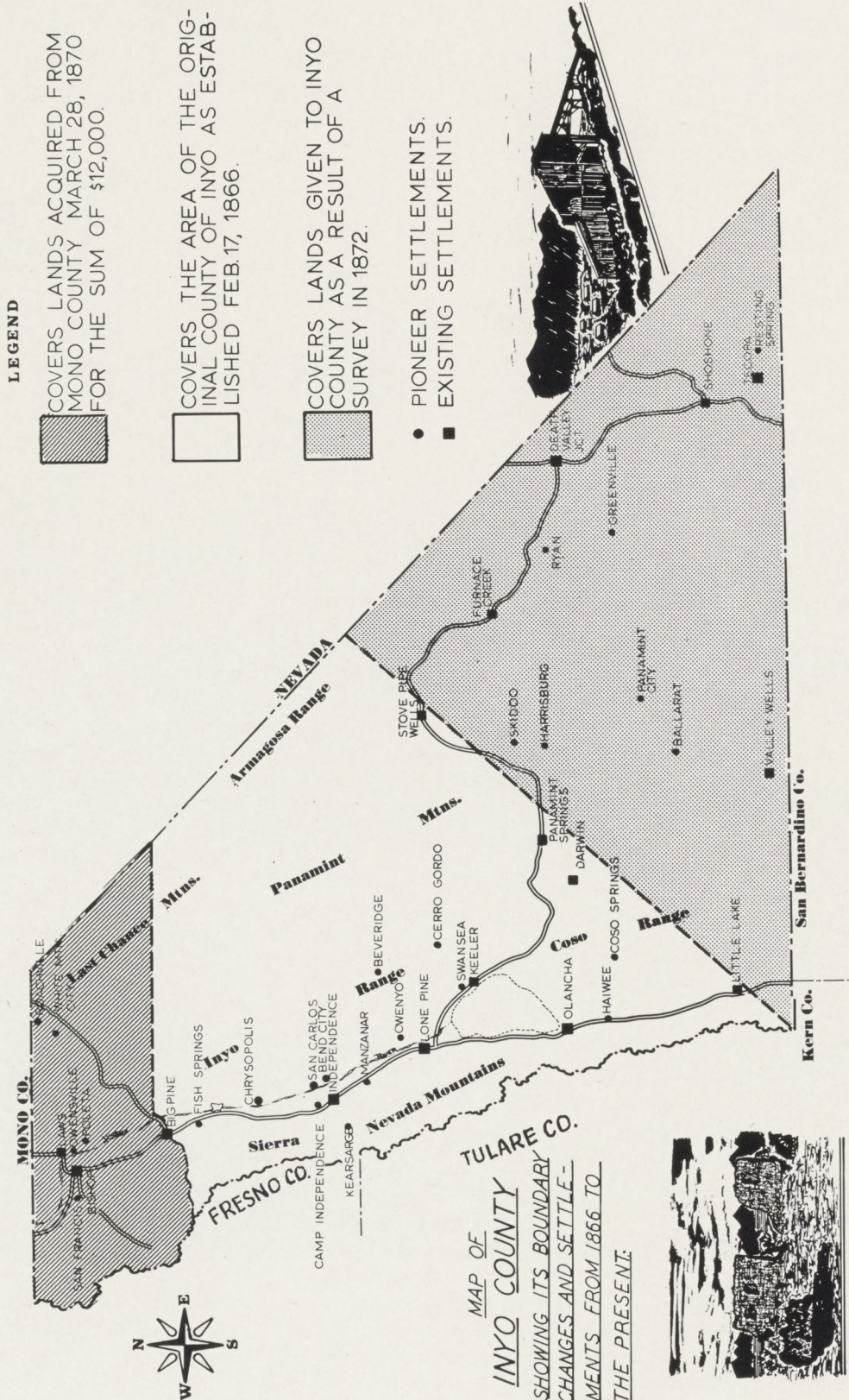
("Fraser's" Photo)



Upper—West of Big Pine lying near the crest of the Sierra is the Palisade Glacier which is the southernmost active glacier in the United States. Lower—In the 1860's pinon wood was burned in these kilns, located in Wildrose Canyon, the charcoal was used as fuel for the smelters of the Modoc Mines.



The Concord stage was the main means of transportation in the county prior to arrival of train service. Pictured here the Clark stage about to depart from the Valley View Hotel in Bishop. The Kern and Inyo Stage Line advertised a reduction of fares in 1882 which was across the board savings of \$10 bringing the cost of a ticket from Independence to San Francisco of \$38 and to Los Angeles \$25. The Aurora and Independence Stage Line carried passengers from Bishop Creek to Independence for \$5 and to Aurora for \$15. The Cerro Gordo Stage Line left Independence at 5 A.M., arrived at Lone Pine at 8 A.M. Leaving Cerro Gordo on the return trip it departed at 7 A.M. and reached Lone Pine at noon.



BELL 11-65

The Formation of Inyo County

Government records tell us that as early as 1849 the Mormons had hopes of ruling the lands far west of the Salt Lake, and that in March of that year they held a convention in Salt Lake City to organize the "State of Deseret." It was to include the present States of Utah, Arizona, and Nevada, parts of Colorado and Oregon, and Southern California south of Santa Monica, eastward and northward through half of the counties of Kern and Tulare, then eastward across the Sierra Nevada. This took in the lands now in Inyo County and the counties to the north. California in forming its state boundary in 1850 ignored this prior claim, and the Act admitting the State ratified the boundary just about as it is today.

It may appear strange to us, but California's boundaries were determined to some extent by anti-slavery and pro-slavery factions in the State's Constitutional Convention, and the angling boundary line through unknown desert country, much of which has become the Inyo County line, was attributed to a compromise between contending views.

When Tulare became a county in 1852, the greater part of what is now Inyo County was within its borders, and thus Tulare exercised some jurisdiction over the lands east of the Sierra Nevada to the Nevada Territorial Line from 1852 to 1866.

A great mining boom brought the organization of Mono County on the north in 1861, its southern boundary reaching to Big Pine Creek.

Encouraged by the success of the citizens of Mono County the people of the lower Owens River Valley presented a petition to the California State Legislature in 1864 asking that Body to create a county south of Mono, the name of said county to be Monache with the county seat at San Carlos, the most thriving of several communities. They asked that the northern boundary be just south of Mono Lake. That they were trespassing on Mono County did not appear to bother the agitators for the new county.

The records do not indicate how the changes were made but when the Bill of 1864 went to the Legislature, the name of the county had been changed to "Coso," the county seat to Bend City, and the northern boundary "down the middle of Big Pine Creek" then east to the Nevada line. The crest of the Sierra Nevada was the western boundary, the southern one a vague line that was supposed to be the old boundary of Tulare. The act to create a county carried the date of June 6, 1864 as the date of the election of officers.

Republicans and Democrats held their conventions and elected nominees for the general election, but due to poor communication and transportation among the

scattered settlements, the proper information did not reach the Commissioners who had been appointed to carry out the work of organization, and thus June 6, 1864, passed without an election being held. The bill passed the Legislature but since no arrangements had been made to change the date of the election, the whole matter went by default.

Not discouraged the settlers memorialized the next Legislature and on February 17, 1866, J. E. Goodale introduced a bill to establish Inyo County; the newly laid-out town of Independence to be the County seat; and the election to be held March 3, 1866. Remembering the problem of 1864, the Commissioners, Thomas Goodale, Lyman Tuttle, L. F. Cooper, and W. A. Greenly, had written into the Act that if the election could not be held on the date designated by the Commissioners, it might be held any time within a year as designated by them. It was well that this was done as the bill while encountering no difficulties, did not become a law until March 22, 1866, therefore the election could not have been held on the date mentioned in the Act. The boundaries of Inyo County were the same as for Coso County.

Again Republicans and Democrats held conventions to select nominees for the election to be held later. That date is not given, but records do show that it was held in May of 1866. When the votes were counted it was found that John R. Hughes of Independence, C. D. Begole of Lone Pine, and John Westerville of Fish Springs had been elected to the Board of Supervisors for the new County. A full corps of county officers were elected but a number failed to qualify, and the next few months were taken up with the business of appointing men to fill the vacancies, or in holding local elections for Justices of the Peace.

The towns of San Carlos and Bend City which had contended for the county seat in 1864 had not been considered this time as they were slowly being abandoned. Kearsarge City was the most populous of the communities and did ask to be considered but its mountainous terrain was against it, therefore it appeared wise to select Independence, a newly laid-out town on the site of Putnam's Cabin or Little Pine, which now had been surveyed, its streets and alleys named.

The new Board of Supervisors met for the first time on May 31, 1866 and John R. Hughes was elected Chairman. They drew lots to determine the length of office of each. John Westerville drew the long term of three years, Charles D. Begole drew the two year term, and John R. Hughes the one year.

At the second meeting, June 18, 1866, the Board ordered that the four Commissioners who had carried on

KEELER PRECINCT QUALIFIED ELECTORS.

17

No. Voted.	Ballot No.	NAME.	Occupation.	Height ft. in.	Complexion.	Color Eyes.	Color Hair.	Visible marks or scars if any, and their location.	Nativity.	Naturalized—Date, Court and Place.	Date Registration, 1896.	P. O. Address at date of entry	Abile to read English name ballot	Abile to write English name ballot	Nature of Disability.
1		Anton, Mike	Butcher	39 5	9	Light	Blue	Light	Illinois		June 8	Keeler	Yes	Yes	Yes
2		Boland, Thomas Carrel	Merchant	55 6	9	Fair	Gray	Brown	Pennsylvania		June 12	"	"	"	"
3		Blancy, Joseph Robert	Engineer	30 5	9	Fair	Brown	Brown	California		June 19	"	"	"	"
4		Barnes, John	Stage driver	60 5	6	Fair	Brown	Gray	Pennsylvania		July 20	"	"	"	"
5		Butler, George Austin	Clerk	39 5	11	Light	Gray	Brown	Ohio		July 24	"	"	"	"
6		Butler, John W	Teamster	40 6		Dark	Gray	Black	N Carolina		July 31	"	"	"	"

BISHOP PRECINCT QUALIFIED ELECTORS, Continued.

7

No. Voted.	Ballot No.	NAME.	Occupation.	Height ft. in.	Complexion.	Color Eyes.	Color Hair.	Visible marks or scars if any, and their location.	Nativity.	Naturalized—Date, Court and Place.	Date Registration, 1896.	P. O. Address at date of entry	Abile to read English name ballot	Abile to write English name ballot	Nature of Disability.
181		Stoutenborough, John Henry	Merchant	60 5	10 1	Fair	Blue	Gray	New York		June 1	Bishop	Yes	Yes	Yes
182		Shannon, James Harvey	Teacher	65 5	10	Fair	Gray	Light	Pennsylvania		May 30	"	"	"	"
183		Smith, William Edward	Farmer	32 5	8 1	Light	Blue	Auburn	California		May 27	"	"	"	"
184		Smith, William Lea	Clerk	25 5	8	Light	Lt blue	Light	P. r. Edw' ds Isl		May 27	"	"	"	"
185		Sneden, Seth Gregory	Att'y at law	68 5	9	Light	Blue	Gray	New Jersey		June 19	"	"	"	"

GEORGE'S CREEK PRECINCT QUALIFIED ELECTORS.

No. Voted.	Ballot No.	NAME.	Occupation.	Height ft. in.	Complexion.	Color Eyes.	Color Hair.	Visible marks or scars if any, and their location.	Nativity.	Naturalized—Date, Court and Place.	Date Registration, 1896.	P. O. Address at date of entry	Abile to read English name ballot	Abile to write English name ballot	Nature of Disability.
1		Anderson, Emery Allison	Machinist	38 5	10 1	Dark	Dark	Dark	Kansas		July 28	Citrus	Yes	Yes	Yes
2		Arcarius, William	Teamster	52 5	10	Light	Blue	Lt Br	Germany		July 3	Thebe	"	"	"
3		Beard, Charles	Farmer	50 5	10	Fair	Blue	Blue	Indiana		July 7	"	"	"	"
4		Basto, John	Miner	49 5	5	Dark	Brown	Dark	Austria		July 14	"	No	"	"
5		Bull, Frank Archer	Farmer	29 5	9	Fair	Blue	Brown	Ohio		July 28	"	Yes	"	"
6		Baldwin, Wiley Jenkins	Machinist	42 6		Light	Blue	Brown	Illinois		July 15	"	"	"	"

CERRO GORDO PRECINCT QUALIFIED ELECTORS.

No. Voted.	Ballot No.	NAME.	Occupation.	Height ft. in.	Complexion.	Color Eyes.	Color Hair.	Visible marks or scars if any, and their location.	Nativity.	Naturalized—Date, Court and Place.	Date Registration, 1896.	P. O. Address at date of entry	Abile to read English name ballot	Abile to write English name ballot	Nature of Disability.
1		Batchelder, La Forestier	Miner	30 5	8	Light	Blue	Light	Massachusetts		Aug 5	Keeler	Yes	Yes	Yes
2		Clinton, Patrick	Miner	47 5	9	Dark	Hazel	Gray	Ireland		July 31	"	"	"	"
3		Grohn, Christian	Miner	57 5	9	Dark	Blue	Brown	Germany		July 31	Cerro Gordo	"	"	"
4		Frye, Irving Watson	Engineer	24 5	7	Light	Blue	Brown	Minnesota		Aug 3	Keeler	"	"	"
5		Jenkins, William John	Miner	30 5	7	Fair	Blue	Brown	England		July 22	"	"	"	"
6		Ketch, Joe	Miner	47 5	10	Light	Brown	Black	Illinois		July 24	"	"	"	"

DARWIN PRECINCT QUALIFIED ELECTORS, Continued.

18

No. Voted.	Ballot No.	NAME.	Occupation.	Height ft. in.	Complexion.	Color Eyes.	Color Hair.	Visible marks or scars if any, and their location.	Nativity.	Naturalized—Date, Court and Place.	Date Registration, 1896.	P. O. Address at date of entry	Abile to read English name ballot	Abile to write English name ballot	Nature of Disability.
7		Fitzgerald, Jeremiah	Miner	56 5	6	Light	Blue	Gray	Ireland		June 15	Darwin	Yes	Yes	Yes
8		Harris, Walter Wilmot	Laborer	21 5	10 1	Light	Hazel	Dark	Nevada		July 15	"	"	"	"
9		Jackson, Henry	Miner	65 5	11	Dark	Brown	Dark	Louisiana		July 18	"	"	"	"
10		Loughrey, William	Miner	32 5	11	Light	Blue	Auburn	Minnesota		July 3	"	"	"	"
11		Mettler, Henry		38 5	4	Light	Blue	Light	Switzerland		June 27	"	"	"	"
12		Meroney, Charles Spurgeon	Clerk	27 5	10 1	Dark	Blue	Dark	Tennessee		July 27	"	"	"	"

The Great Register of 1896 was of 11 by 18 inch page size and well it was, to include the number of questions required to be answered to qualify as a voter. There were 18 precincts in the county that year with 973 registered. Above samplings of different precincts showed many of foreign birth but no party affiliations revealed.

the work of county organization leading up to the election, be paid fifty dollars each for the work.

In September of 1866 the Board of Supervisors appointed two Commissioners, W. A. Greenly and L. F. Cooper, to meet a like number from Tulare County to determine whether Inyo County was indebted to Tulare County. Tulare appointed Pleasant Byrd and S. C. Brown as their representatives. Chalfant says that both the records of Inyo and Tulare are blank as to what came of the work of this committee, and that likely Tulare was glad to get rid of this great stretch of land over the Sierra Nevada because of the expense of trying to enforce any kind of law or jurisdiction.

We do find in the minutes of the Inyo County Board of Supervisors of November 5-6, 1866, that they authorized warrants to the amount of four hundred dollars to be drawn to the two Commissioners to defray expenses, and that the Clerk was authorized to give the two men certificates of identity or of good faith, if they desired such.

Again in the minutes of February 4, 1867, we find that the Commissioners made their report to the Inyo County Board of Supervisors, but no mention is made as to the contents of this report. A warrant was ordered at this same meeting to be paid to Auditor Shackleford of Tulare County for fifty dollars for work in abstracting. No further mention was made of this matter.

Soon after the formation of Inyo County the people north of Big Pine Creek indicated they wanted to carry on their official business at Independence rather than Bridgeport. The reasons given that the distance was too great, and the severe winters prevented travel for a number of months. This desire on the part of the people in the upper Owens River Valley resulted in the introduction of a bill in the Legislature which was approved and signed into law, March 28, 1870. This law changed the northern boundary of the County from the middle of Big Pine Creek to the line between Township five and six south of Mt. Diablo base line. In consideration of the transfer of this land, Inyo County promised to pay Mono County \$12,000.00, payable \$3,000.00 annually, beginning with January 1871. The Board of Supervisors of Inyo County referred only once to this transaction. On Monday, May 2, 1870, they ordered that in "addition to the tax now levied for County purposes, there be and is hereby levied the sum of 41½ cents upon each one hundred dollars of assessed property within the County of Inyo, by virtue of 'an Act of the Legislature of the State of California, entitled an Act to define and establish the boundary line between the counties of Inyo and Mono, Approved March 28, 1870, and to be known as the Mono Debt. Fund'."

It was ordered also, "that the territory heretofore belonging to the County of Mono, and designated in said county as Township 1, be hereafter known and designated as Township 4 in and for the County of Inyo."

"Ordered that the above named Territory, and the same is attached to and forms part of Supervisorial District number 1, in and for the County of Inyo."

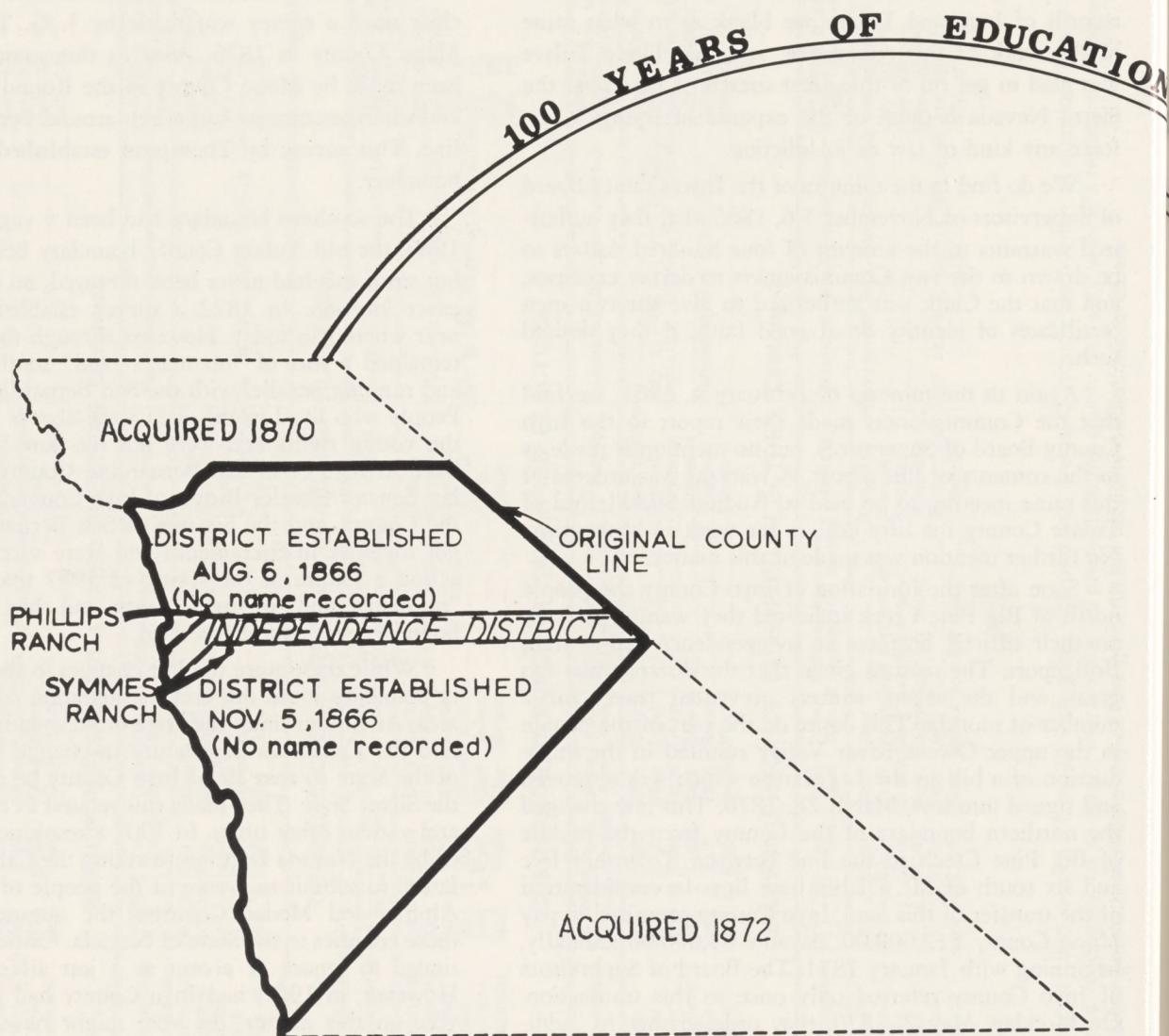
The above references made on May 2, 1870, are the only ones to be found in the minutes of the Inyo County Board of Supervisors, but each year in the County Budget the "Mono Debt. Fund" would be listed and a tax rate set to raise the amount of the annual payment. The last of this debt was paid in January of 1875, making it appear as if the County of Inyo was one year in arrears.

The exact location of the northern boundary was not clear until a survey was made by J. G. Thompson of Mono County in 1876. Prior to this some claims had been made by Mono County in the Round Valley area, and some resentment had arisen around Benton over the line. This survey by Thompson established the present boundary.

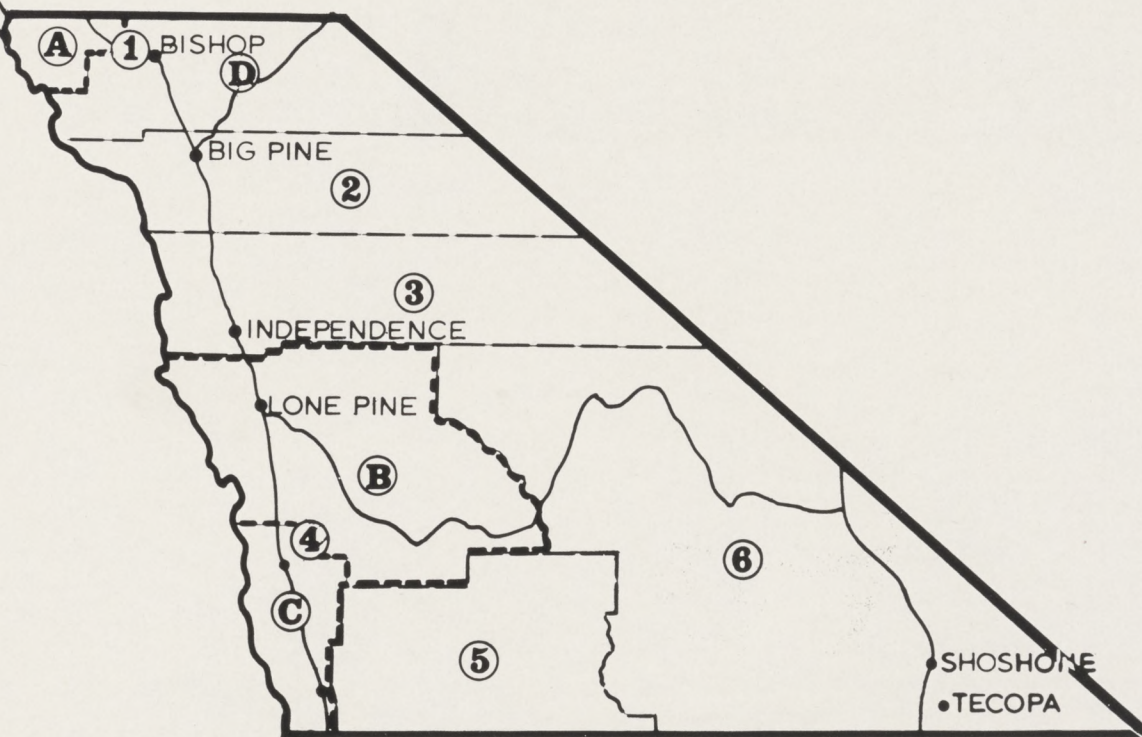
The southern boundary had been a vague line since 1866, the old Tulare County boundary being accepted, but since this had never been surveyed, no one knew its exact location. In 1872 a survey established the line near where it is today. However through the years there remained a sort of "no man's land" south of Tecopa, and running parallel with the San Bernardino boundary. People who lived in this area were always puzzled over the voting rights and were not too sure whether they lived in Inyo or in San Bernardino County. Finally the late Senator Charley Brown of Inyo County, official from the County, and the Senator of San Bernardino County got together in Sacramento and were successful in enacting a statute in the spring of 1957 that placed this "no man's land" in Inyo County, and thus the southern boundary was amicably settled.

While these were the last changes in the Inyo County boundary it did not end the agitation concerning the area. At various times the State of Nevada has memorialized the California Legislature to change the boundary of the State so that all of Inyo County be transferred to the Silver State. They made this request as early as 1864, and various other times. In 1907 a resolution was adopted by the Nevada Legislature asking the California Legislature to submit to a vote of the people of Inyo, Mono, Alpine, and Modoc Counties, the question of ceding those counties to the State of Nevada. California has continued to ignore or accept as a jest all such requests. However, in 1907, had Inyo County had permission to vote on this matter, the vote might have been in the affirmative, considering the turmoil in the County at that time. Nevadans have always felt that the dividing line between their State and California was the backbone of the Sierra Nevada; and it is not unusual to hear the natives of this disputed area, remark, "We would be better off if we belonged to Nevada." This is particularly true since the reapportionment of the Senate has taken place.

Inyo County is the second largest county in the State of California, though its population is only 13,972 according to the special census taken recently. To make matters worse in this sparsely settled and far-flung territory, only 4.5% of the land is assessable. This means that of the 6,548,000 acres in the county only 294,000 acres are taxable.



MAP SHOWING INYO COUNTY
SCHOOL DISTRICTS FROM THE
FIRST FORMATION IN 1866 TO
THE PRESENT STATUS OF 1966.



DISTRICTS

- Ⓐ Round Valley Elementary
- Ⓑ Lo-Inyo Elementary
- Ⓒ Olancho Elementary
- Ⓓ Bishop Elementary

- ① Bishop Union
- ② Big Pine Unified
- ③ Owens Valley Unified
- ④ Lone Pine Union
- ⑤ Trona Unified
- ⑥ Death Valley Unified

MAP by LARRY BELL



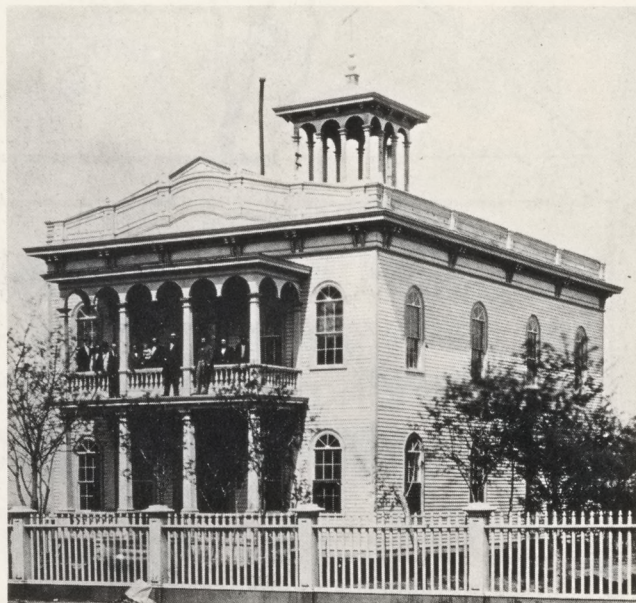
Upper—It was nearly three years after the county was born before it was to have its first courthouse which was accepted on February 1, 1869. On March 26, 1872 the structure was destroyed by an earthquake. Lower left—The second courthouse received county approval July 10, 1873 at a cost of \$15,900.00. It was destroyed by fire June 30, 1886. Lower right—The third structure was made available for occupancy February 10, 1887 but was \$10,000.00. It was replaced by the present building in November 1921.

(Collection of C. Lorin Ray)



(Eastern California Museum Photo)

(Collection of C. Lorin Ray)



Inyo County's Four Courthouses

From the time Inyo County was formed, March 22, 1866, until about March of 1869, the County Board of Supervisors met in a building belonging to W. A. Greenly on the west side of Edwards Street in the town of Independence.

That some thought had been given to building a courthouse is evident from the old townsite map drawn by Thomas Edwards as of February 13, 1866, on which is found the words "court house" on lots 5 and 7 of Block 26.

The Board minutes of that long ago time are barren of discussions regarding a courthouse, so it was rather a surprise when on May 5, 1868, F. B. Fleming presented a plan for a courthouse, said plans having previously been drawn by A. J. Close. No action was taken in this regard. On May 25, 1868, however, the Board met to open bids on a building. Several bids were made but all rejected. At this meeting, A. J. Close, E. Chaquette, and J. J. Mankin, presented a new plan and specifications which were adopted and ordered filed. June 27, 1868 was set as a date to receive bids again for a courthouse.

At the June meeting it was ordered that upon the conveyance by Thomas Edwards to the Supervisors by deed of Lots 1 and 2 in Block 22, that said Board would convey by deed to Thomas Edwards lots 5 and 7 of Block 26. This was all done in accordance with "an Act to authorize and empower the Supervisors of the County of Inyo to sell certain real estate belonging to the County and which had been approved March 28, 1868." As far as we can ascertain this was the first transaction made in securing lots in the present Courthouse grounds.

Bids were opened at the June 27th meeting and the bid awarded to J. J. Mankin for \$9832.00. Mankin was ordered to file sufficient bond acceptable to the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, and proof of faithful performance of said work. The amount of the bond was \$1800.00. The building was to be completed before the 1st Monday in November, and presumably was built according to the plans and specifications adopted May 25, 1868.

No further mention is made of the courthouse and the date for it to be completed came and passed. On February 1, 1869, J. J. Mankin appeared before the Board of Supervisors, "having completed the courthouse in said contract and the same was duly accepted and received from the said J. J. Mankin." A complaint which had been filed against him as of January 22, 1869, was ordered dismissed, and the Clerk directed to certify same to the District Attorney, P. W. Bennett.

No record can be found stating when the County moved in to the new building, and no mention in the minutes of the material used in the construction. The

plans and specifications are not in the office of the County Clerk.

Chalfant says in the Story of Inyo that on the morning of March 26, 1872, at exactly 2:30, this courthouse was destroyed by an Earthquake. Other references are made in the Inyo Independent about this event. It mentions that the "two-story burned brick courthouse at Independence fell in a crumbled mass; that the upper story crumbled, bringing the roof down on the lower story." Chalfant also says that this building had never been satisfactory, and that only two weeks before the Earthquake a bill had been enacted into law authorizing the County of Inyo to issue bonds to the amount of \$40,000.00 for the building of a new courthouse and new bridges on the Owens River. No mention however is made in the minutes of the Board of Supervisors to this effect. In fact, the minutes do not even mention the Earthquake or the destruction of the courthouse until May 8, 1872, when it was ordered by the Board that a notice be placed in the Inyo Independent that on the 8th day of June at 1:00 P.M., 1872, in front of the "late courthouse" the Sheriff would sell to the highest bidder for cash the remains of the "late courthouse" including brick, lumber, doors, and windows. The furniture and the jail were to be reserved. The purchaser had to remove the "said remains" and all debris from the grounds within 30 days of the sale.

At the meeting of May 11, 1872, sealed bids were called for the second courthouse with plans and specifications. It was noted at the June 19th meeting that \$120 was received for the "remains of the late County courthouse." Plans and specifications for a courthouse were submitted by G. Stecker on July 3, 1872, and they were adopted.

On September 12, 1872 several bids were opened, but the bid of E. Chaquette was accepted for a courthouse to cost \$15,900.00. Evidently the plans and specifications adopted in July to be followed.

No further mention is made of the courthouse until the May meeting of 1873, when a date was set to accept the new courthouse. This was done on July 10, 1873, and the next month, August 4, the Board of Supervisors insured the new courthouse for \$15,000.00, the first mention made of the County taking out insurance on any building or item belonging to the County. This insurance cost the County \$480.00.

The second courthouse stood for thirteen years, a few months lacking, when on June 30, 1886, it was destroyed by a fire that took thirty-eight buildings in the town of Independence. No fire-fighting apparatus was available, so the fire went unabated except for a bucket brigade. When it became evident that the Courthouse would go, two spirited women of the town, Mrs. R. L. Peeler and Mrs. J. S. McGee, inspired a group of people to carry out all documents, records, and even the

furniture from the doomed building. Thus all past records were saved.

Once again the Board of Supervisors met in scattered buildings. The County's business was carried on in the Church, the Masonic Hall, and other available rooms around the town.

The Board of Supervisors promptly called for Plans and Specifications, and adopted a plan submitted by W. N. Cancannoh for a building to cost between \$8,500 and \$10,000. Bids on this building were called for and to be opened at a meeting on October 7, 1886. On this date the bid was awarded to M. E. Gilmore to erect and construct a Courthouse for \$11,458.00. This amount was lowered later to \$10,000.00, due to changes in the plans. The building was accepted February 10, 1887.

This third courthouse was used by the County for thirty-four years, but most of that time was considered too small and inconvenient.

In 1910 some changes were made in the State Revenue Laws which deprived Inyo County of part of its

income from the taxation of railroads and other public utilities. Although an amendment for reimbursement of this money to the County was made by the Legislature, the issue was neglected until the County Auditor, Thomas M. Kendrick, made it his personal objective to see that the money was paid to the County. Through his determination Inyo County finally received \$100,382.00. At this time the County appeared to be in good financial condition, so the Board of Supervisors felt justified in erecting a new courthouse, the fourth for the County.

On December 9, 1919, the Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution to employ William H. Weeks, Architect, who had drawn plans and specifications for a new courthouse, and continuing this meeting over to December 10th, they set February 10, 1920 as the date for opening bids on said building and the removal of the present building.

On January 14, 1920, Supervisor Naylor was ordered by the Board to remove all trees now on courthouse site which might interfere with the erection of the new court-



The present Inyo Courthouse accepted November 8, 1921 by the Board of Supervisors. Together with well-planned landscaping it is a subject for much filming. The building right background is known as the County Services Building, completed February 15, 1965.—Photo by Michael Faisy.

house, and to remove the annex to the old building to some suitable locality in the vicinity of the present "stone vault."

All bids opened in February were rejected, and on March 9, 1920, the plans and specification prepared by William H. Weeks for the new courthouse were accepted, and the Clerk ordered to advertise for bids for the construction of a courthouse according to the plans and specifications. Bids to be submitted not later than 2 P.M. April 9, 1920. The bids were opened on April 9th and the meeting continued on over to the next day when there was a motion approved unanimously to award the contract to William McCombs and Paul Daniel McCombs of Bishop, to build a two-story and basement concrete courthouse in Independence in accordance with the plans and specifications made by W. H. Weeks. The cost of the new building to be \$158,700.00. From time to time the Architect and the contractor appeared before the Board of Supervisors relative to the building. On March 7, 1921, W. H. Weeks, Architect, was ordered to prepare plans for the fittings and furniture to be installed in the new courthouse, and to prepare plans and specifications for the finish of the building.

On July 12, 1921, a bid was accepted from the Boyd Lighting and Fixture Company for lighting fixtures for the new courthouse for \$1625.00. The bid of Rucker, Fuller Sales Company was accepted for the furniture and fixtures for \$24,425.00. At this meeting the Board was concerned over the delay in completing the Courthouse, blaming the Contractors, McCombs and Son, for lack of diligence in securing materials and labor. Architect Weeks was authorized and instructed to take all steps necessary to bring about the completion of this building, and all expenses thereon to be charged to the Contractors.

Some difficulty was encountered in regard to the Bonding Company and McCombs and Son were asked to produce new bonds. At an August meeting of the Board it was stated that new sureties given by the Contractors were satisfactory. On October 4, 1921, McCombs and Son appeared and stated that the new courthouse would be completed by October 17, 1921. A meeting was held by the Board on this date and the building inspected but not accepted. It was however accepted on November 8, 1921, and the Clerk instructed to readvertise for sale and removal of the old courthouse. The new building accepted by the Board of Supervisors was, and still is today, a beautiful building along classic lines, and would do credit to a much more populated county.

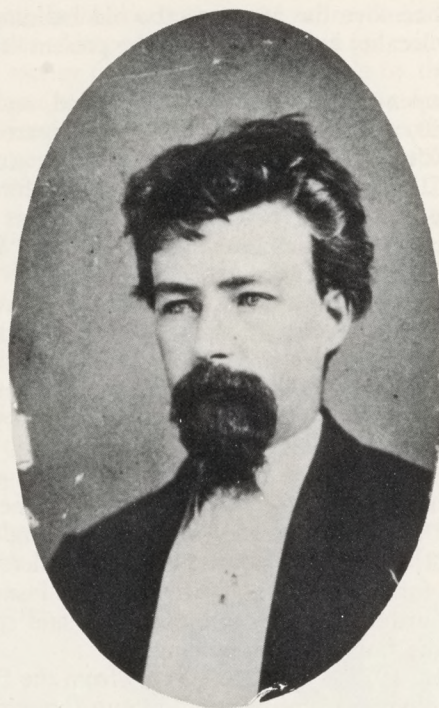
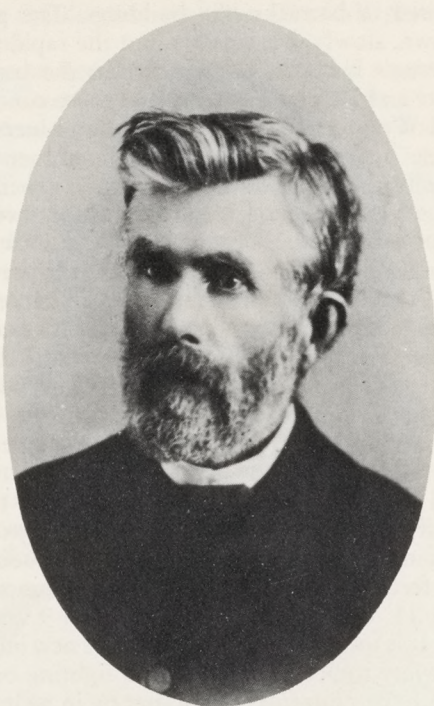
The old building had been left standing and was used until the new one was ready for occupancy. In the Museum at Independence is an old photograph of the new building, showing the former courthouse in front of the south wing of the new building. It stood much closer to Edwards Street and had little landscaping in the front. It was enclosed from the street by a picket fence, and a horse rail was on the north side. It was torn down and the material moved away as soon as the new building was ready for the County's use.

As the years have passed the County's business has outgrown this fourth courthouse, commodious as it appeared in 1921. Branch offices have been established in the various towns, and whole departments have been

housed in barracks like buildings. The population has grown, slowly, but steadily, but the rapid increase in the County's business has come from the passage of many State and Federal Laws, such as those concerning Health and Welfare, Roads, Recreation, and increased demands made upon every branch of government. In order to handle this increase in the county government and to house the personnel required to do the work, additional floor space had become necessary. After considerable thought on this subject the Board of Supervisors employed Calvin Goss and Allan Choy, Architects of Bakersfield to draw plans and specifications for a new building to be erected south of the older courthouse. Bids were called for later and on February 18, 1964, the bid went to the Colombo Construction Company of Bakersfield for \$353,820.00. The building was accepted February 15, 1965. It is known as the County Services Building and presents a very beautiful addition to the County Courthouse Complex which now has grown from two lots in Block 22, to all of the block including Lilly Alley, 80 feet of closed Center Street on the north side, all of lots 11 and 12 and five feet of lots 9 and 10 in Block 15. It is indeed a beautiful site. The new building, modern in every respect with attractive lighting on the grounds, still has architectural lines that tie in well with the more classic lines of the older building. Inyo County can well be proud of its County Courthouse building.



Superior Court Judge William Daniel Dehy, highly respected citizen, who spent more than half of Inyo's first 100 years in legal and judicial work for the county. Born in Sacramento March 2, 1870. His father was an early rancher on Bishop Creek and Will attended school in Bishop. Following a period of cowboy activities he taught school at Fish Springs. He attended Hastings College of Law at San Francisco. It is said he rode his horse to the top of Kearsarge Pass, slapped the animal on the rump and proceeded on foot to Sanger where he caught the train. After graduation he was elected District Attorney in Inyo in 1898; later he was elected Sixth Superior Court Judge November 3, 1908, continuing on the bench until his death November 3, 1949. As a trial judge he presided over the landmark case of Natural Soda Products vs. The City of Los Angeles which established certain rules of water law for the first time. The judge was considered a gentleman in every sense of the word, showing sympathy to those in trouble and any errors were a gain on the side of charity and leniency.—Photo from Eastern California Museum.



UPPER LEFT—Pleasant A. Chalfant was born in Chillicothe, Ohio, Jan. 14, 1831. His schooling took place in Iowa.

Fired with the news and challenge of new frontiers, he joined the "San Francisco Party" in the summer of 1849. He traveled westward for some time with the Jayhawkers until his party branched off prior to the crossing of Death Valley.

His early activities were geared to mining on the Feather River and Trinity County and service as a volunteer in the Pit River Indian War.

The Idaho mining boom attracted him and it was when he was in the vicinity of Boise he met and married Miss Adeline Slater. To the union were born a son and four daughters.

Inyo mining was on his mind when the family journeyed to Independence but the establishment of the Inyo Independent became his leading interest as he and his partner J. E. Parker printed the initial edition July 9, 1870.

He sold his interest in 1881 and spent an unsuccessful period in mining promotion until 1885 when he and his son, W. A. Chalfant, founded the Inyo Register.

Leaving the editorial duties to his son, he became County Assessor in 1887 and served in that capacity until 1898.

His demise took place in Bishop Feb. 2, 1901.

UPPER RIGHT—James E. Parker was born in Iowa City in 1847 and was a graduate of Bryant & Stratton Business College in Chicago at the age of 16 with the award of a life membership. He had also acquired a sizeable knowledge of printing.

Like the youth of his time the excitement of western mining accounted for his arrival at Virginia City. It was not known, but possible, that his funds became depleted and he found his education better equipped him for employment on the Territorial Enterprise than activity at the mines.

When arrival of the news of mining discoveries in southern Inyo reached the Comstock he decided he would have a look, and according to his daughter Mrs. Bessie Stevens, ate his 21st birthday dinner, cooked over a sagebrush fire at George's Creek.

At the age of 26 he was to serve the area comprising Inyo, Mono and Tuolumne counties as assessor from 1874 to 1876, with considerable recognition.

It was during this service he was to meet Maruca Q. Warnes, newly arrived from New Orleans. Their marriage was to be blessed with a son and four daughters.

He passed away in Bishop Feb. 13, 1913.

It is indeed a coincidence that two men from the east, traveling their separate ways to the west, were to establish the pioneer newspaper of Inyo . . . and more so, that they were half-brothers.

BELOW—Early masthead of the first paper.

Photo credits—P. A. Chalfant, collection of C. Lorin Ray; James E. Parker, Bessie Stevens collection.

THE INYO INDEPENDENT.

Panamint News.

VOL. I. PANAMINT, CAL., NOVEMBER 28, 1874. NO. 2.

PANAMINT NEWS. PANAMINT GEOLOGICALLY CONSIDERED.

THE INYO LANCET.

Vol. 1 INDEPENDENCE, INYO CO., CALIFORNIA—AUGUST 19, 1871. No. 3

THE LANCET. the valley, whether just or unjust we transactions contained in the Sweden indicate desire to

BISHOP CREEK TIMES.

VOL. 1. BISHOP CREEK, INYO COUNTY, CAL., NOVEMBER 26, 1881. NO. 5.

FUNNY BUSINESS.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Burdette's "Snipe on Toast."

Won at Last.

lace and pass it under the blast, and not a thread of the lace will be injured.

A. K. BRIGGS.

Inyo County Register.

Vol. 1. BISHOP CREEK, INYO CO., CAL.: SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 1885. Number 1.

Inyo County Register.

INYO COUNTY.

increasing gradient, rising to the foot of about a ton to the acre. The cars and over 250 miles distant, several hundred some day to put on record in these the mountains are due a remarkable

P. A. CHALFANT & SON.

Its Lakes, Streams, Soil and Prospects Accurately Described

THE EASTERN CALIFORNIAN

DEVOTED TO THE UPBUILDING OF ALL SECTIONS OF INYO COUNTY

VOLUME I.

INDEPENDENCE, INYO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, SATURDAY, MAY 7, 1910.

NO. 1

NOT COLLECTED

BALZAR TAKES LEASE

S. H. REYNOLDS LEASE

RIG OPERATIONS IN

ALWAYS RELIABLE

Owens Valley Herald

NEWS THAT'S NEW

An Independent Weekly Journal that Chips the Block of Publicity Without Caring Where the Chips Fall.

Volume 4. No. 40

Bishop, Inyo County, California,

JUNE 7, 1912

The Year \$3

\$1,500,000 Mining Deal Completed With
Sale of Santa Rosa Mine

Court Notes
Sheriff Collins has summoned the trial
on Tuesday, the 18th day of June.
of Mono
the

Social Gossip Sabrina Dam Has
Arcul- Safety Fence



Complete with sleeve protectors (center right) stands W. A. "Bill" Chalfant in the original home of the Inyo Register, Academy Ave. and N. Warren St., Bishop. With his father P. A. Chalfant, the first issue was published April 4, 1885.

FRENCH RESTAURANT

—AND—

ONE BIT SALOON.

PETER MARGALOT, Prop'r.

THE PROPRIETOR OF THIS ESTABLISHMENT would respectfully notify the public that he is still carrying on business at his place on Edwards street, Independence, and will be pleased to receive patrons at all times. He has a Bar-room in connection—drinks, 12½ cents. au196m*

COSMOPOLITAN SALOON,

Cerro Gordo, Cal.

WINES, LIQUORS AND CIGARS OF THE finest quality constantly on hand. The

TWO FINEST BILLIARD TABLES

In the county connected with this Saloon. Call and sample our wet groceries.

DAVISON & HUGHES, Proprietors.
fe4632tf

Lone Pine Hotel.

THE UNDERSIGNED, HAVING PURCHASED the above property, respectfully solicits a share of the public patronage.

Mrs. M. A. BARRY, Proprietress.
Lone Pine, Jan. 6, 1872. n81y1

NEW DRUG STORE

....AT....

INDEPENDENCE.

HAVING OPENED MY NEW DRUG STORE in this place—

Second House North of the Inyo Hotel.

I am prepared to offer to my friends and the public generally, at reduced prices

For Cash Only,

a full and well-selected stock of

FRESH AND PURE DRUGS,

Patent Medicines,

PERFUMERIES OF ALL KINDS,

Hair Brushes, Tooth Brushes,

PEBBLE SPECTACLES,

Paints, Oils, Window Glass,

BLACKSMITHING.

ABRAHAM PARKER,

—THE—

Pioneer Blacksmith

—OF—

OWENS VALLEY.

THE UNDERSIGNED RESPECTFULLY INFORMS the citizens of Independence and of Inyo County generally that he is always on hand at his old stand, to do all kinds of work in his line, in the best style, at the lowest rates—for cash.

Horse Shoeing, Ox Shoeing, Tire Setting, Iron Work, Etc.

Of every description.

Wagon Work

Done in the best style at reasonable terms.

Agricultural Implements

Made and repaired.

UNCLE ABIE returns thanks for the very liberal amount of patronage received from the people of Inyo, and hopes they will continue to favor him with the same.

A. PARKER.

Some County Newspapers Died In Infancy

The first paper published in Inyo County was the Inyo Independent, with the initial issue appearing on July 9, 1870. It was co-founded by Pleasant A. Chalfant and James E. Parker.

Published continuously at Independence, its early issues were produced on equipment imported from Aurora including the historic Washington hand press that had previously been transported around the Horn and now is a feature display of the Ford Museum at Dearborn, Mich.

Subscription rate was the average of those established being \$5 a year with legal advertising at \$1.50 a square for first insertion and \$1 for subsequent insertions.

Harry L. Childs succeeded to Mr. Parker's interest but held his ownership for a brief year, when the original ownership was restored.

Others identified with the management included: James E. Parker (after Chalfant sold his interest in 1881), Norman E. Conklin (for one week), M. M. Glenn, C. Mulholland, I. H. Mulholland, Charles Walter, Harry A. Glasscock, Glasscock and Barmore, the Parcher family, Geo. W. Savage and Robt. Sanders, Savage and Roy L. French and the present ownership of Chalfant Press, Inc.

In 1870 "The Inyo Lancet" was launched in Independence under the ownership of T. J. Goodale & Co. but was to become involved in a political controversy that caused its demise in a short period of time.

Panamint City, in 1874, had its Panamint News under the guidance of T. S. Harris. Its 7 by 12 inch page was printed on a job press and its end came with the decline of the camp.

Publisher Harris was to move into the new camp of Darwin in 1875 and produce the Coso Mining News for the next two years.

On amateur equipment Willie A. Chalfant was to edit and publish the Juvenile Weekly in Independence on notepaper size stock but in its last edition the editor remarked that it "lasted quick." The equipment and effort were taken over by Norman E. Conklin with "The Tarantula" gracing the masthead. It ran for a few months in 1876 and was 5½ by 5½ inches in size.

Another juvenile effort of young Chalfant's bloomed in the summer of 1881, with page size 5 by 8½ inches but came to an end by the opening of school.

The Bishop Creek Times was born in October 1881 under the guidance of E. H. Fortecilla and R. C. Julian, the latter being succeeded by W. L. Davis. For economic

reasons it was printed in a building that also housed a saloon but its obituary was written in June 1882, cause of death being "we are out of paper and have not the money to buy more."

In Apr. 1885 the Inyo Register, under the management of P. A. Chalfant and son made its bow. For a year's time W. A. Chalfant and B. H. Yaney held the reins. W. A. Chalfant became the sole owner in Jan. 1889 and continued at its helm until sold to Geo. W. Savage and Roy L. French on Jan. 1942, later to come to Chalfant Press, Inc. with Todd Watkins and Owen F. Cooper as publishers.

The Inyo Index appeared in Independence in 1887 under the supervision of C. W. Craig and in two years was sold to I. H. Mulholland, moved to Bishop and survived for only a period of months.

Two papers graced the short boom life of Greenwater, The Greenwater Times and Greenwater Miner, Brown & Raber editors of the first and Major J. F. A. Strong the latter. C. E. Kunze and Carl B. Glasscock also published a semi-monthly magazine The Chuckawalla from this camp.

The Skidoo News, operated by M. B. McLeod, held forth for a year and a half in that camp.

J. Holeman Buck, fireball editor of Nevada, realized he had made a mistake in bucking the Inyo Independent with his short lived paper The Eastern Californian in 1910.

Court Kunze and Carl Glasscock entered the Bishop publishing field with the Owens Valley Herald, sold to W. C. Parcher in 1912 and it later passed into the hands of Harry A. Glasscock but to find its closing edition in 1928 published by the Parchers.

During the Glasscock-Kunze proprietorship a few editions of the Big Pine Post and Keeler Post made their appearance.

Lone Pine's first paper The Mt. Whitney Observer was activated by Lloyd Skinner.

For a very short period a printer by name of Meyer sought to produce The Index in Bishop but competition proved too strong.

Clarence W. Graham initiated the Big Pine Citizen, which was later acquired by A. G. Barmore who sold his plant to Al Rogerman of Lone Pine Progress in 1932 who changed the masthead to Progress-Citizen.

This publication was acquired by the aforementioned Savage & French and today is one of the papers printed by Chalfant Press, Inc.



Before the days of the "horseless carriage" Watherson Bros. Hardware, in Bishop, found ready buyers for their stock of wagons, buckboards and buggies. — Curt Phillips Collection.



The first motor truck in Owens Valley, an International 1906 model. The machine was brought here by Will Hanby and later purchased by A. A. Brierly, who, with his brother-in-law attempted its use in rapid freight transit, a plan which failed. In the year 1935 it was purchased by Edwin A. Stevens, who overhauled it and used it until 1952 when it was sold to Weber Showcase & Fixture Co., where it is used in their advertising program. It was a familiar sight in early Homecoming parades. Its power came from a two cylinder motor, had a chain drive, gas lights and rubber tired wooden wheels. It cranked from the side. — Photo courtesy of Edwin Stevens.



(Richard C. Datin, Jr. Collection)

(Emil W. Greitkeutz Photo)



Emil W. Greitkeutz Photo)



Upper left—Cottonwood Sawmill before 1900 with creek running under mill. Lower left—Wooden flume which was used in transportation of lumber out of the higher elevation. Center right—Charcoal kilns on the shores of Owens Lake where logs from the sawmill were burned for charcoal consumed in processing of ore at Cerro Gordo.

INTO Sherman Stevens' Timber Empire

For decades, before erection of the historical marker, travelers along the west side of Owens Lake passed by two adobe charcoal kilns without knowing of their existence. Though some distance from the road, they were in plain sight if you knew where to look. But they blended so well into the landscape that they were discovered and visited only by a few who were willing to risk their auto on the old dirt road.

Today these fascinating relics—fenced against vandals but sadly eroding from the elements—are about all that remain of a picturesque empire built by an Inyo County pioneer, Col. Sherman Stevens. His enterprise once spread from the Cottonwood Lakes near the crest of the Sierra to the silver towns of the Inyo and Coso Ranges up to forty miles away. His business was to supply mine timbers and smelter fuel for the flourishing camps of Cerro Gordo, Swansea, and Darwin. And in transporting his products he used a unique and wonderful combination of ox teams, wooden flume, mule teams, and a steam tugboat.

Born in New York about 1812, Stevens left home at sixteen and threw in his lot with the Western frontier. For a time he was active in the fur trade around the Great Lakes, and later built an early railroad in Michigan. Tall and robust, he joined the Gold Rush to California in 1851; in the next few years he made some fifteen business trips back and forth to the coast. He settled in Owens Valley in 1865, a year before Inyo County was formed, and in the midst of the Indian war. As early as 1867 he owned a mine at the new silver-lead camp of Cerro Gordo, high in the Inyo Range east of Owens Lake.

But like so many other Western enterprisers, Stevens' main contribution was not in digging for metal, but in providing supplies.

By the early 1870s, Cerro Gordo was booming through the hard-driving efforts of its principal mine and smelter owners, Mortimer W. Belshaw and Victor Beaudry. The bars of silver-lead bullion, hauled southward by Remi Nadeau's mule teams, were helping to bring new life to the adobe pueblo of Los Angeles. As early as 1872 nearly all the pinon pines and junipers on both sides of Buena Vista Peak had been cut and devoured for mine timbers and furnace fuel. An army of woodcutters, charcoal burners, and muleteers had used up the local supply.

At this point Sherman Stevens cast his eyes across Owens Valley to a new and almost inexhaustible supply of timber in the High Sierra. For over a year woodcutters had been chopping trees in Cottonwood and Ash Creeks, rafting the logs and charcoal across Owens Lake by flatboat and scow. But the cost was so great that \$40 worth of charcoal was required to smelt a single ton of bullion

worth \$400. Stevens had to find a cheaper means of transportation.

At this very time part of the problem was solved by the enterprise of James Brady, superintendent of the Owens Lake Silver-Lead Company. In partnership with Daniel H. Ferguson, he built a steamboat near his company's headquarters at Swansea, on the east side of Owens Lake. Eighty-five feet long, sixteen wide, she was shaped like a ferry boat and powered by a twenty-horsepower engine and a four-foot propeller. On Independence Day, 1872, she churned over to Ferguson's Landing, five miles south of Lone Pine; here, while the population of southern Owens Valley looked on, Brady's little daughter broke a bottle of wine on the bow and spoke her own name, "Bessie Brady."

Second commercial lake steamer west of the Mississippi and the first west of Salt Lake, the *Bessie Brady* began hauling Cerro Gordo and Swansea bullion bars across Owens Lake at the rate of seven miles an hour. Even at this speed, she saved the four days' time that mule teams had formerly required in their trip around Owens Lake and back.

Stevens could use this advantage in transporting Sierra timber, but more than a dozen steep miles still remained between the west shore of the lake and the best timber stands high in Cottonwood Canyon. This problem the ingenious Stevens solved by planning a flume to carry the logs at least as far as the bullion trail from Los Angeles. From there, the mule teams could haul them down to the wharf on the lake near the mouth of Cottonwood Creek.

Together with his two sons, Sherman V. and Augustus C., the grey bearded colonel launched his enterprise in January 1873. First he secured a \$25,000 loan from the Owens Lake Silver-Lead Company, giving them a mortgage on his blueprint sawmill and flume, and the assurance that he would always transport their fuel at 25 cents a cord less than he charged Belshaw and Beaudry. Then he built a trail up Cottonwood Creek to his sawmill site at the head of the canyon in the heart of the Sierra timber. Finished in June 1873, the mill was powered by a steam turbine and equipped with a main saw, an edger, and a cross-cut. With logs hauled to it by ox teams, it began turning out lumber for the long flume down the canyon.

By mid-September four miles had been completed; twelve-foot V-shaped sections were boxed together at the mill and sent down the water-filled flume to be attached to the end by carpenters. Temporary sidings were constructed so that the boys could ride the boxes down the flume while the canyon walls echoed to their laughter. The slide was so steep in spots that the workmen shot downward like a cannonball, spraying water in all directions.

Early in November, 1873, the flume reached the Los Angeles bullion trail three miles from the lake shore. Construction was suspended while wagons began hauling cords of wood to Stevens' wharf at Cottonwood Landing. From here the *Bessie Brady* pulled them in barges across the lake, and the mule teams carried them up the eight-mile "Yellow Grade" to Cerro Gordo. At last those furnaces on Buena Vista's slope had an inexhaustible supply of charcoal, and those black columns of smoke continued to darken the sky over the Inyo Range.

But Stevens was only half-finished with his timber empire. In 1874 silver was struck in the Coso Range and the new camp of Darwin was born. At first, mine timbers and furnace charcoal for the new town came from the western slopes of the Coso Mountains, where the pinon pines grew in profusion. From there, hundreds of woodcutters and charcoal-burners sent their products from ten to fourteen miles by burro and wagon into Darwin. By day their charcoal pits smudged the sky over the Cosos; by night their campfires shone as distant sparks to the teamsters and tavern-keepers along the bullion trail. But by 1876 this source, too, was nearly exhausted.

Ready to step into the breach was Col. Sherman Stevens, who reorganized his operation as the Inyo Lumber and Coal Company in April 1876. With J. B. Bond as a partner and a capital stock of \$500,000, he first extended his flume to the wharf at Cottonwood Landing. Then in January 1877 he began burning bricks for two charcoal kilns near the wharf. A thirty-two foot tug boat was built in San Francisco, hauled by the Southern Pacific Railroad as far as Mojave, and then carried by Remi Nedeau's teams to Owens Lake. Her engine, also hauled in by mule team, had been taken from the U.S.S. *Pensacola*, which had foundered in the battle of New Orleans during the Civil War. Afterward she had been towed to New York and rebuilt; her engine now found its way across the continent to Owens Valley.

Anxious to put his steamboat into service, Stevens

launched her before she was decked over. In a wind-storm one or two nights later she shipped too much water and capsized. With the help of the *Bessie Brady* Stevens raised her and soon put on a deck. At the suggestion of editor P. A. Chalfant of the *Inyo Independent*, she was christened the *Mollie Stevens*, after one of the colonel's two daughters.

By June 1877 Colonel Stevens had spent \$64,500 to place his enterprise in full operation. Down from the Cottonwood sawmill the timber was shooting via the thirteen-mile flume. At the charcoal kilns, logs were reduced to charcoal, then hauled in scows across the lake by the *Mollie Stevens*. From the east shore they were taken on to Cerro Gordo and Darwin by Nadeau's teams.

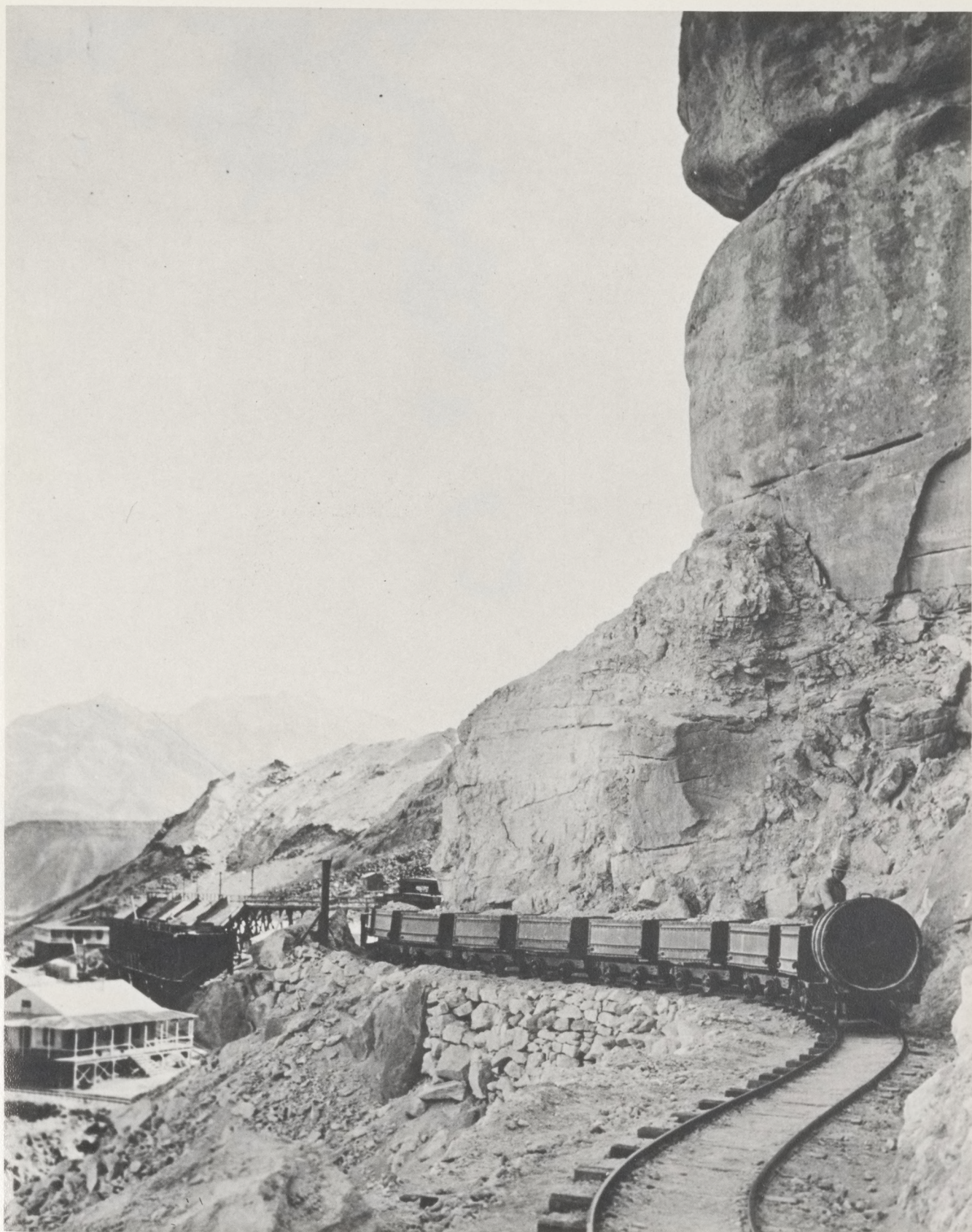
But misfortune dogged Colonel Stevens and his timber empire. In September 1877 a fire destroyed part of the flume and 64,000 feet of cut logs and lumber—a loss of \$5,000 to \$6,000. In the same year both Cerro Gordo and Darwin faltered in their output of silver and lead. By '78 they were fading fast as the boys stamped to the new strikes at Mammoth City and Bodie.

His empire shattered, Colonel Stevens was seventy-one when he left Inyo in 1883 to conduct mining operations elsewhere. Returning later, he died at Lone Pine in 1887.

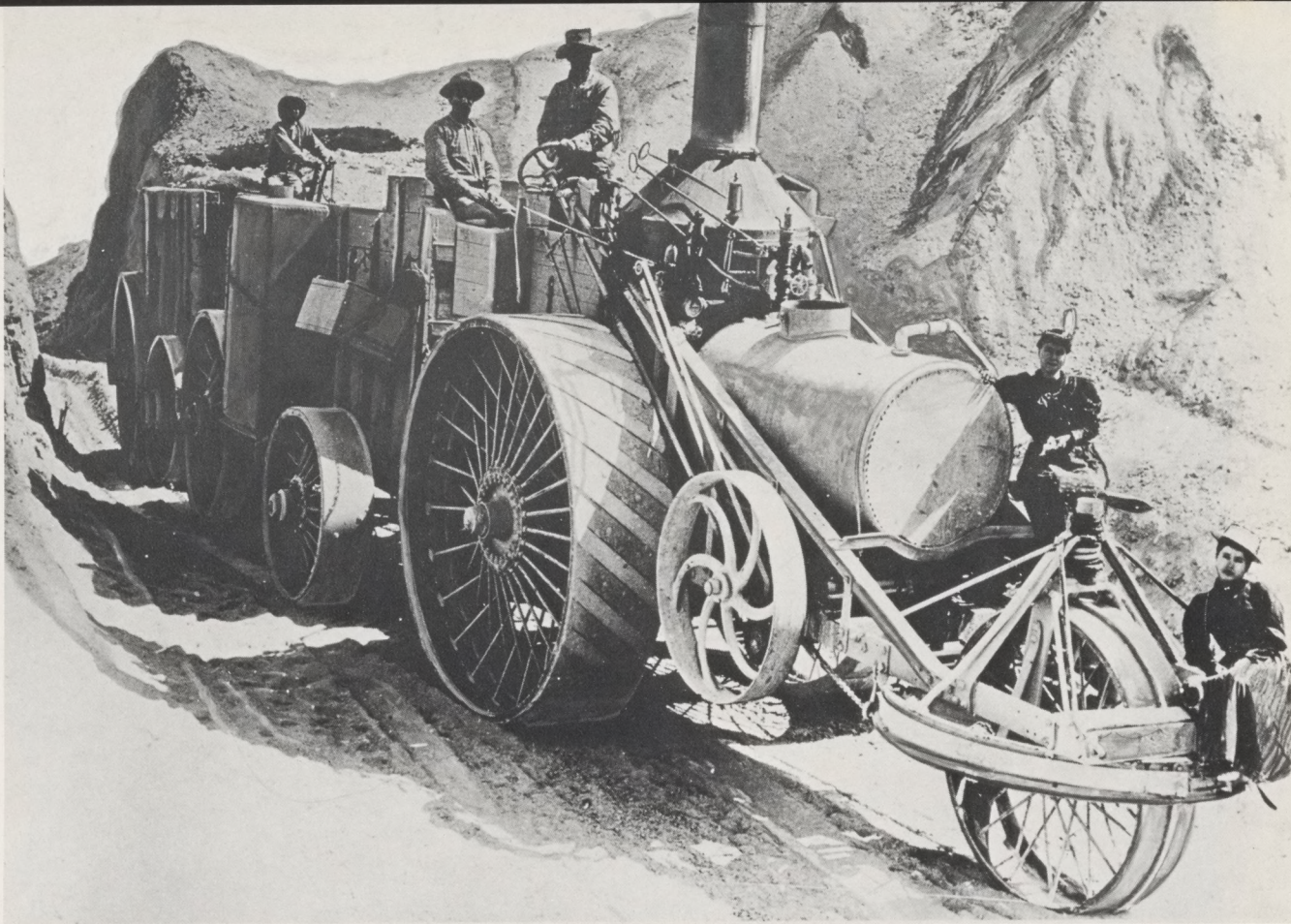
Since then the landmarks he built have disintegrated. The *Mollie Stevens*, after giving up her engine to the larger *Bessie Brady*, lay idle by the wharf at Cottonwood Landing till the crystalline waters of Owens Lake destroyed her hull. The *Bessie Brady* continued to ply the lake with Owens Valley freight till she burned to the water's edge at Cerro Gordo Landing in 1882. High up in Cottonwood Canyon, the sawmill eventually lost its roof but otherwise stood intact for decades, its machinery rusting and silent. Recently a fire destroyed this fine old keepsake of Inyo's silver age. All that remain are the two charcoal kilns, but with holes in the tops they are weathering fast. Unless otherwise preserved they will eventually return to the dust from which they were made by an energetic Inyo pioneer.



(Emil W. Greitkeutz Photo)



The Tonopah & Tidewater Railroad about 1916. This railroad was constructed by F. M. Smith to transport the ore from the Lila C mine to the railroad at Ludlow. — Photo by U.S. Borax.



Upper—"Old Dinah," steam tractor and ore wagons used as experiment in transporting ore from Borate to railroad at Dagget in Death Valley. Lower left—F. M. "Borax" Smith, colorful figure in early borax operations. Lower right—Aaron Winters and wife. Winters' borax discovery sparked recovery of "cottonball" and led to the fabulous operations to follow—Photos courtesy of U. S. Borax.

The Borax Industry in Inyo County

From the early 1880's until well into the twentieth century, Inyo County was the principal source of borax in the USA. The versatile mineral, which today is a basic ingredient in hundreds of products—from fiber glass and pharmaceuticals to fertilizers and photographic chemicals—was discovered in the County in 1875 by a Frenchman named Isadore Daunet.

No borax was produced in Inyo County, however, until 1882 when Daunet worked the Eagle Borax deposits near Bennett's Well. In 1880 Aaron Winters, a prospector who lived in Ash Meadows, just east of Death Valley, discovered "cottonball," a white borate mineral, on the floor of the Valley near the mouth of Furnace Creek. It was Winters' discovery which eventually made Death Valley famous and opened up Inyo County to prospectors seeking their fortunes.

Winters sold his claim to William T. Coleman of San Francisco, who built the first successful borax operation—Harmony Borax Works—in 1882 near what is now Furnace Creek Ranch. From 1883 to 1889 the famous twenty mule teams hauled borax from Harmony Borax Works, over the steep Panamint Mountains and across the desert to the nearest railhead at Mojave. It was a twenty day round trip, during which the teams traveled 15 to 18 miles a day.

Coleman's scouts later discovered new borate deposits in the mountains east of Death Valley, and later in the Calico Mountains south of the Valley. But before Coleman had fully developed his new properties, his widespread and complex financial interests led to bankruptcy; and in 1890, F. M. Smith, who owned borax deposits at Columbus and Teel's Marsh in Nevada, acquired all of Coleman's borax properties. These, with his own holdings, Smith incorporated as the Pacific Coast

Borax Company, predecessor to today's United States Borax & Chemical Corporation.

From 1890 to 1907, borate mining activity shifted from Inyo County and the Death Valley area to the Calico Mountains (in San Bernardino County), where large deposits of high grade borates had been discovered. When these deposits were depleted, however, Inyo County once again became the country's principal source of borax—this time at Ryan in the Funeral Range, where production was maintained until 1927.

Smith not only was a great miner, but also a great railroad builder. To service the mine and plant at Borate in the Calicos, he built the Borate & Daggett Railroad to replace the twenty mule teams. Before the operation at Borate was abandoned, he began development of the Lila C, a mine in the Southeastern part of Inyo County. To bring the ore from there to the railroad at Ludlow, Smith was responsible for the construction of the Tonopah & Tidewater Railroad. As the ore at the Lila C began to run low, all the machinery and buildings were moved to New Ryan in the Funeral Mountains, where a permanent camp was set up. Year after year, new mines were opened up there: the Biddy McCarthy, the Grandview, the Widow. To interconnect these new mines, a short, narrow-gauge railroad, known as the "baby gauge" was built. To connect the camp at Ryan with the T & T, the Death Valley R. R. was constructed.

United States Borax & Chemical Corporation still owns extensive properties in Inyo County, although the major source of the company's borax today comes from Boron, California in Kern County. In addition, borax interests in London still own Furnace Creek Inn and Furnace Creek Ranch and operate these properties under the Death Valley Hotel Company, Limited.



(U. S. Borax Collection)



Upper—It wasn't always true that the caboose was the last car on the train as is shown by this photo posed at the south end of Mt. Montgomery tunnel in the 1880's. Lower — No. 18, with a full head of steam, heads north across the sand flats near Keeler. Photos from collection of Richard C. Datin, Jr.

The Carson & Colorado Railroad

"A passenger train, freight train, and a milk train run each way every day, but in order to economize, one engine is made to pull all three," said well known reporter, John R. Spears, speaking of the Carson & Colorado RR in the early years. He, too, wondered what the road was built for and thought it unique in one respect and remarkable in others. It did not start at Carson, neither did it end at the Colorado and though its length was 300 miles there were less than 6000 persons to serve. He went on to say, "The tourist who travels in the cars of the C&C RR is not unlikely to wonder which is the more interesting, the road or the desert region."

The C&C was the idea of the famed Virginia & Truckee RR, the Comstock bonanza road. Diminishing revenue caused the owners of the V&T to cast their eyes upon the country to the south and the boom towns of Bodie and Candelaria. Here were possible new sources of revenue and on March 31, 1880 rails began at Mound House, Nevada, a station on the V&T east of Carson City.

Construction of the narrow gauge line passed through Dayton along the Carson River and on to Hawthorne by April 18, 1881, 100 miles to the south. This town served as a junction point for the freighting of goods to Bodie as well as the railroad's center of operation and maintenance. By Dec. 31, 1881, rail had been extended 150 miles to Belleville established in 1873 as the location for milling ore from Candelaria. Two months, 6 miles of ascending grade, and one 292 ft. long trestle were the obstacles conquered by the 130 man construction gang to gain Candelaria. Upon the completion of track a gala celebration was held Feb. 28, 1882 in this town of 900 persons.

March 1882, found the crew ascending the mountainous barren region prior to crossing the 7138 ft. elevation of Mt. Montgomery Pass in the White Mts. This pass was, in fact, higher than the Southern Pacific's crossing at Donner Summit in the Sierras. Descent from the summit necessitated several deep cuts, fills, and tight curves approaching the hand hewn 247 ft. long tunnel. The downgrade brought the rails to the floor of Benton Valley arriving at Benton Station in California on Jan. 20, 1883. On April 1, 1883, train service was initiated to a point several miles east of Bishop Creek, later named Laws after the assistant superintendent of the road.

Prior to crossing the California-Nevada state line, the C&C officials conferred with prominent townspeople in the valley. To induce the railroad to lay its rails through Bishop Creek, John Clarke offered 40 acres for a depot site plus right of way across his land. However, the railroad selected the east side of the valley where terrain was better suited to railroad requirements. On August 1, 1883, train service to the end of the line

at Hawley (later Keeler) commenced.

The railroad's entry into the deepest valley brought about a complete change of course for the flow of its products. Heretofore, Remi Nadeau's 20 mule team wagons freighted goods to the south, whereas products now moved north by rail. Freight cars of the C&C in the late 80's listed shipments of borax to Mound House, corn from Bishop to Hawthorne, dressed meat from Black Canyon to Candelaria, hay from Bishop and Hammil to Rhodes, and sheep from Benton to Belleville and Candelaria. Wages of C&C personnel in 1899 amounted to \$135.00 per month for engineers, \$85.00 for firemen, conductors — \$100, carpenters — \$120., blacksmith — \$85.00, and Chinese labor at \$30.00 per month.

Interesting names, whose origins are somewhat clouded, were posted at sidings and settlements south of Laws such as Poleta, Black Canyon, Alvord (later Zurich), Monola, Elna, and Tibbets (Aberdeen). Others included were Independence (Citrus and still later Kearsarge), Owenyo, Mt. Whitney (the early station for Lone Pine), Dolomite, Tramway (Saline Valley Tram), Swansea, and finally Keeler.

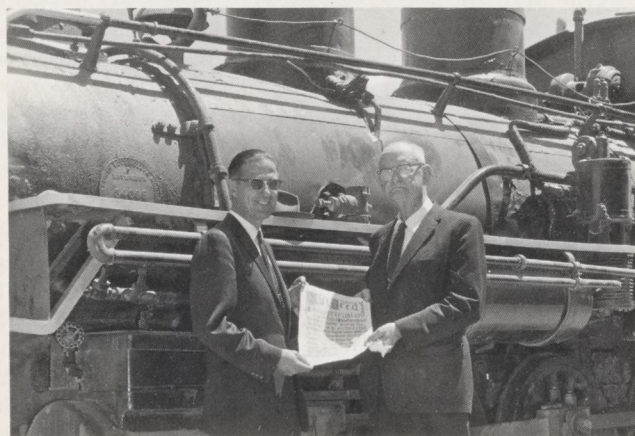
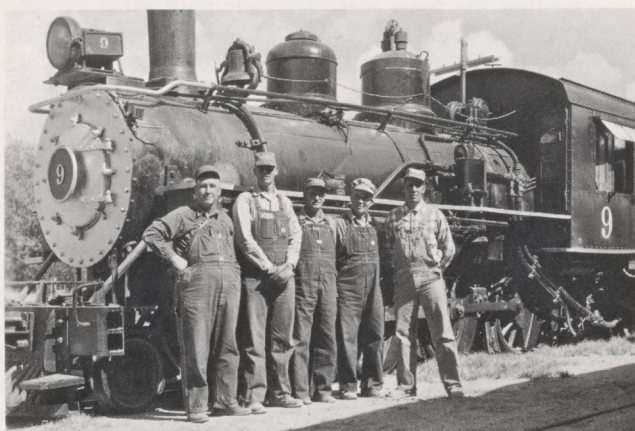
At first the years were fruitful; with gross earnings of \$442,254. by Dec. 31, 1882 and net of \$246,104 while a 100 miles of rail remained to be laid. An economic downturn in the mining camps caused revenues to slip and by 1890 there was an unpaid interest deficit of \$97,200. Further skidding revenues caused recapitalization and a director change in 1892. At year ending June 30, 1899, revenues had fallen to \$146,238 with a deficit of \$55,315.

An offer by the Southern Pacific Co. to buy C&C stock and bonds for \$2,750,000 was accepted on March 1, 1900. It was the following year that the Union Pacific RR. gained controlling interest in the SP. In April, 1905, the SP Co. organized the Nevada & California Ry. for purposes of standard gauging the 3 ft. gauge rails from Mound House to Mina, Nev. and to build a new track to the SP main line at Hazen. Hawthorne was bypassed necessitating new shops and yards at Mina, 30 miles to the south, where the remaining narrow gauge rails now terminated. Standard gauging much of the line now brought direct rail connection to the boom town of Tonopah over the SP and the Tonopah & Goldfield RR. Revenues increased rapidly during these bonanza years and by 1907 gross earnings were \$1,262,835.

The SP Co. now sought to connect Owens Valley by rail to the south for which the local valley people had been promoting since the late 80's. This link became a reality when construction was started at Mojave Feb. 24, 1908, to supply tons of equipment for the building of the Owens Valley Aqueduct. The standard gauge line was completed Oct. 14, 1910 with the narrow gauge rails at Owenyo. On Oct. 18, a wind-blown crowd stood



(Chester Tayloe)



Upper—No. 9 taking on water at Keeler tank preparatory to making a north run. Center left — Last crew to man the "Slim Princess" April 29, 1960. From left to right: Messrs McGhee, Jones, Ferguson, Graves and Olson. Bottom— On Saturday, April 30, 1960 Railroad Superintendent R. R. Robinson presents deed to Laws property to the late Senator Charles Brown — Photos from collection of Richard C. Datin Jr.

on the covered foundation of the Owenyo depot to watch the traditional last spike driving by Supt. H. V. Platt of the SP. Bullion for the spike, made by J. B. Conterno, was furnished by Robt. Carrasco, A. T. Hay, and J. B. Conterno from nearby Inyo mines. Later at Lone Pine, the celebration continued with a barbecue, Piute war dance, fireworks, and a grand ball.

March, 1912 saw the N&C lettering on rolling stock replaced by SP plus rumors of broadening the last remaining 3 ft. rails to provide a short cut to the east from Southern California. An order was issued to replace all worn out ties with new standard gauge ties which coupled with the appearance of construction crews seemed to confirm the rumors. For clearance, the station roofs and platforms along the narrow gauge were cut back in early 1913. A standard gauge right of way was surveyed between Laws and Mt. Montgomery Pass to connect at Mina. In June, 1913, new overnight Pullman sleeper service was inaugurated between Los Angeles and Owenyo on the broad gauge. The General Passenger Agent of the SP, Mr. F. A. Batturs, at the time was noted to be one of the best name coiners on the coast. For it was this man who is responsible for the now famous nickname of the narrow gauge train that met the Pullman service at Owenyo—*The Slim Princess*. During this time the Federal Government brought an anti-trust suit against the Union Pacific ordering it to divest itself of the SP. When the decree became final on June 30, 1914, all further expansion involving the narrow gauge stopped. The last remaining example today of this uncompleted work is the track side of the Laws station roof eave.

During the 20's, traffic on the narrow gauge lessened due to the deteriorating economic conditions. One major reason was the diversion of water to Los Angeles which caused much of the farmlands to revert to desert. Inroads by the truck and auto made themselves felt as well as mines closing. The downtrend caused SP to cut away unprofitable branches with the branch to Candelaria being torn up in 1932. Further abandonment was sought on the narrow gauge from Tonopah Jct. to Tom, Calif., above Laws, in 1934. Service over this line was now down to one train a week in both directions over poor track. The SP's application was denied because of the then current rise in silver prices and possible increase of traffic. However, conditions did not improve materially and in 1938, the line from Tonopah Jct. to Benton Station was abandoned. The following year all service was discontinued from Benton Station to Laws along with passenger service on the entire line.

Shipments of non-metallic minerals and occasional cars of sheep kept the remaining 70 mile segment from Laws to Keeler active in the latter years. Of the 25 narrow gauge steam engines pounding the rails of the line at one time or another only the first 8 were acquired new. The remainder were hand me downs from other SP properties. The passenger equipment was a conglomeration running the gamut from the plush officer car, the Esmeralda, to its last caboose, formerly a combine, now at Laws. A new General Electric 450 HP diesel engine was acquired in Oct. 1954, prolonging the life of

the line a few more years. Of the last remaining steamers, No. 8 was sent off to Carson City, Nevada for display, No. 18 was presented to the Eastern California Museum at Independence, and No. 9 held for standby duty.

Landmarks of former years slowly disappeared—Zurich station torn down, Kearsarge depot burned in 1955, Aberdeen tank razed, Keeler station closed in 1957, followed by Laws soon after. In 1959, the famed Cerro Gordo tramway at Keeler was transferred to Candelaria, site of renewed mining activity.

The SP in 1959 petitioned to abandon the Slim Princess. And though protests plus offers to buy the line as a tourist attraction were heard, nevertheless, permission was granted.

As the sun came up to break the Friday morning chill of April 29, 1960, diesel No. 1 made the final jaunt to Keeler. Engineer W. C. Ferguson, a 17 year narrow gauge veteran tooted a last salute, then north to Owenyo and later to Laws to pick up the remaining cars. Saturday, April 30 at Laws, the first spike pulling ceremonies occurred as well as the donation of engine No. 9 with a string of cars to the City of Bishop. The train along with the former station, oil and water tanks, gallows turntable, and several movie sets will serve as a nucleus for the Bishop Museum. Down at Owenyo on Saturday saw No. 1 shove the last remaining ore cars onto the transfer trestle for unloading and a last whistle toot for the railfans present.

After several months, a scrapping concern was awarded the task of tearing away the last vestiges of the Slim Princess. By January 1961, only a scar remained up and down the valley with former box and stock cars scattered about Inyo County as storage sheds. Owenyo in 1965, once a beehive of activity was no more except for a few dying trees, debris, and rusted spikes. Keeler's mementos consist of the former station and the Owenyo depot serving as a firehouse.

In the years to come, many a late night TV movie watcher and perhaps a sharp eyed railfan might recognize a familiar location setting using the narrow gauge line, and for these fans—*The Slim Princess* still lives on.



Laws Depot, which was to be the end of the rails for Old Number Nine with final abandonment of the last section between Laws and Keeler. Bishop Museum and Historical Society, with the aid of the county and City of Bishop are presently progressing with plans to preserve this historical landmark.—Photo by T. G. Wurm.

Mary Austin—A Page From History

(Excerpts from the story which recently appeared in Mineral Information Service)

At the end of a little side street in Independence in Inyo County, California, stands a small frame house under a huge willow tree. Before it is a plaque marking the spot (California Historical Landmark 229) as the home of Mary Austin, and quoting a bit from the PREFACE of her LAND OF LITTLE RAIN: "But if ever you come beyond the borders as far as the town that lies in a hill dimple at the foot of Kearsarge, never leave it until you have knocked at the door of the brown house under the willow-tree at the end of the village street, and there you shall have such news of the land, of its trails and what is astir in them, as one lover of it can give to another."

Mrs. Austin has long been gone from this place that she loved, and her eloquent tongue long stilled. But the products of her pen, strong with the unique strength that came to her through this desert land, still give us "such news . . . as one lover of it can give to another." Perhaps that strength made her the controversial woman that she became. Through it she conquered physical pain, sorrow, and a series of personal disasters and tragedies that would have beaten an ordinary mortal into the depths of despair; through it she made enemies that bore their bitterness long past her death. For it is said that when, in one of the desert communities, it was proposed that a fountain be erected to her memory—a low pool, where even the smallest creature might come to drink—the town officials summarily refused.

Born in Carlinville, Illinois, September 9, 1868, Mary Hunter—a precocious and non-conforming child from the very beginning—spent most of her first 20 years in that tight-bound midwest community.

Before she was ten, she decided that her life work should be writing; in fact, by then she had started to write. Her interest in nature developed at an early age. When she was but twelve she read the Chautauqua course in geology, and that same year Hugh Miller's geological opus "Old Red Sandstone." Thus inspired, she began to collect fossils, particularly fossil crinoids. She soon, as she said, had a croquet box full, and that was continually being dragged out for other young collectors to gloat over and everybody to stumble upon.

Mary Hunter's interest in the natural sciences lasted throughout her life. In 1888, when her family—then reduced to her mother and two brothers—moved to California and established themselves on a homestead at the far south edge of the San Joaquin Valley, she found country that stirred her strangely. A large part of her time, day and night, she spent out-of-doors, inquiring, observing, and recording for future use the habits of the

night-prowling animals, the flux of seasons, the kinds of growing things, the movements of sheep and cattle, the stories of herders, Indians, pioneers—anything and everything that crossed her path. Mostly her mind was filled with questions; and for help in finding the answers, she turned to General Edward F. Beale, owner of Tejon Rancho, who was thoroughly familiar with the land and the sources of information about it, and glad to pass on his knowledge to the quick and intelligent girl.

By the summer of 1889 it was obvious to the Hunters that they would not be able to make the homestead pay. General Beale, as always sympathetic to the problems of homesteaders, offered to let them work Rose Station, the old stage stop just below the Pass, on his Tejon Ranch. Mary spent but little time there, for she was almost immediately engaged to teach at Mountain View dairy ranch.

Here Mary Hunter came into her own. She was an excellent teacher, able not only to stimulate the interest and natural inquisitiveness of her students, but also to win their affection, even their devotion. Here, too, she met Stafford Wallace Austin and became engaged to him. They were married May 18, 1891, at her mother's home, which was then in Bakersfield.

Stafford Austin's goal, at the time he married Mary, was to become a vineyardist; it took him a little less than a year to lose that hope. Next, he and his brother Frank set up on irrigation project for the Owens Valley, which Stafford was to manage from Lone Pine; and after a short interlude in San Francisco (during which Mary sold her first two short stories) husband and wife took up residence at the Lone Pine hotel.

For several years thereafter Mary struggled to put their lives in order; but matters went from bad to worse. For awhile they settled at George's Creek, north of Lone Pine, where Mr. Austin taught school.

During this period Mary became acquainted with the Indians, going out occasionally to work with the women at their native tasks; learning how to make snares, to weave baskets, and to find the seeds used for food and the plants used for medicine. She renewed her acquaintance with the flocks and herders she had known on the Tejon, and to the latter she brought garden greens and fresh garlic, which she traded for lumps of fresh mutton, and for news of the trail.

The next winter Mr. Austin taught school at Lone Pine, where conditions were somewhat improved; at least the house was better, and his salary a bit larger. She was drawn once more into the company of miners and mining people, the tag ends of the Comstock rush, those "relicts of the great mining days, whose trails went up like smoke even as Mary watched them." She crossed the town's social borders, making friends with its Spanish-

speaking population, learning from them the art of Mexican cooking and the sound of their soft-flowing language.

So her days went . . . until Mr. Austin took up a homestead in the Alabama Hills. Though she found great beauty in that spot, Mary was not there long, for the life was more taxing than her health could stand, and the strain was a hundredfold increased by her growing suspicion that (their child) Ruth was mentally afflicted. Short of money as always, she went to Bishop, to teach in the Academy there. For the time, Mr. Austin stayed behind.

In 1897, Mr. and Mrs. Austin accepted work as teachers — he as Superintendent — in the Lone Pine school; but once more her health gave out, and she went to Los Angeles. Soon afterward Mr. Austin quit his job and moved to Independence to become Registrar of the Desert Land Office. Mary, not having been consulted, was incensed; but when she could she went to him there.

Another bout with illness sent her to Los Angeles for a year, where she had a chance to meet and talk with other writers for the first time in her career. She would undoubtedly have liked to stay, but Mr. Austin would not leave Inyo, so she returned there, feeling that another year of separation would probably end their marriage.

Perhaps the most magnificent description of California desert country ever to reach print is Mary Austin's book, *THE LAND OF LITTLE RAIN*. She said, "I was only a month writing . . . but I spent twelve years peeking and prying before I began it." People sought her out—geologists, collectors of Indian artifacts, botanists, explorers, Sierra Club members—because of her knowledge of the land. She was acknowledged an expert on Indian affairs; and no less personage than Theodore Roosevelt, President of the United States, sought her opinion on forest lands and grazing.

In the early 1900s Mary, planning her book *ISIDRO*, took the opportunity to travel to Monterey and do research for it at the Mission of Carmel. There she made the acquaintance of many prominent writers, and with Jack London, George Sterling, and several others, formed the artists' colony at Carmel.

But her time in California was now coming to its end. In 1903 an investigation was started by the National Reclamation Bureau to reclaim arid lands in Owens Valley. Individual owners made transfers of rights and privileges, and land was purchased easily by men who claimed to represent the Government. And then the rosy picture exploded. Word got around that the water was instead to be drained from the Valley to supply Los Angeles. Wallace and Mary Austin joined their protests to those of the Valley inhabitants—to no avail. Wallace Austin eventually moved on to Death Valley. Mary Austin resumed her writing—for a time—in Carmel. Ill and depressed, she foresaw nothing but desolation for the County of Inyo, and loving it as she did, had no wish to return there.

She lived 66 full years, years of meeting life head-on, years during which resignation was "never a character written in her book," before her death on August 13, 1934, at her "Beloved House," Casa Querida, in Santa Fe, New Mexico.



(Eastern California Museum Photo)



(Tom Ross Photo)

Upper—Mary Austin teacher and authoress of *The Land of Little Rain*. Lower—California Historical Landmark No. 229 marking the location of the Austin Home which is still standing in Independence.



(A. A. Brierly Collection)

(Eastern California Museum Photo)



Upper—This picture, taken in 1884 shows the Bishop Public School. The structure was erected in the early 1870's and stood on the present site of the Bishop Elementary School on Line Street. Lower—Lone Pine students attended school here.

Upper left—Considered a most modern building in its day was the Inyo Academy of Bishop, situated just east of the present high school. Center left—Without windbreak stood the Keeler school. Center right—Manzanar school, about 1912. Lower left—Early Big Pine school. Lower right—Sunland school, which stood southwest of Bishop.



(Collection of C. Lorin Ray)

(Eastern California Museum Photo)



(Calla White Collection)

(Alliene Hunnewell Collection)





(Ray McMurry Collection)

Upper—Mowing machines in tandem and rake following on Watterson Ranch, south of Bishop in early 1900's. Three and four crops were harvested nearly every summer. Center right—Photo taken in 1904 shows hay hands stacking for winter feeding at Laws ranch. Lower left — At a time agriculture was a major part of the economy, silos dotted the valley landscape. Here green chopped fodder was stored for stock feed. These on ranch near Big Pine. Lower right — Sugar beet harvesting in northern end of valley. Before ranches were abandoned major sugar refineries were planned for the area.



(Nellie McNally Collection)

(Photo by Harry Mendenhall)



(Art Hess Collection)



Agriculture In The Owens Valley

Agriculture had just about reached its peak in the Owens River Valley by 1912, having been delayed greatly in the early years of settlement by the persistent desire to get rich through the discovery of gold, silver and lead.

The finest agricultural lands were in the north end of the Valley, although very small rich sites were farmed near Lone Pine; George's Creek, later to be known as Manzanar; Independence and the Fort area.

The first grain was planted by the Jones Brothers of Round Valley about 1865, and the first fair to exhibit the animals and produce of the Valley was held in Bishop in 1886.

All the common garden vegetables grew in abundance. Phenomenal yields were often reported for wheat and corn. During the peak years Owens Valley alfalfa was considered to be without equal. One farm of ninety-eight acres had a yield one year of 173 tons of hay which sold for \$7,480.00.

The orchards and vineyards of Owens Valley were becoming known throughout the State of California. George's Creek and Lone Pine were known for their grapes, and Big Pine and Manzanar for apples.

Dairying early became an important industry as the many mining settlements provided a ready market for dairy products.

Cattle business had flourished in the Owens River Valley from early times. Summer mountain range and plenty of good water contributed to good cattle production. However, individual herds were relatively small until the purchase of lands by the City of Los Angeles, when due to the leasing of the heretofore farm lands, this industry was greatly expanded.

Horse, hog, sheep, and poultry raising kept pace with

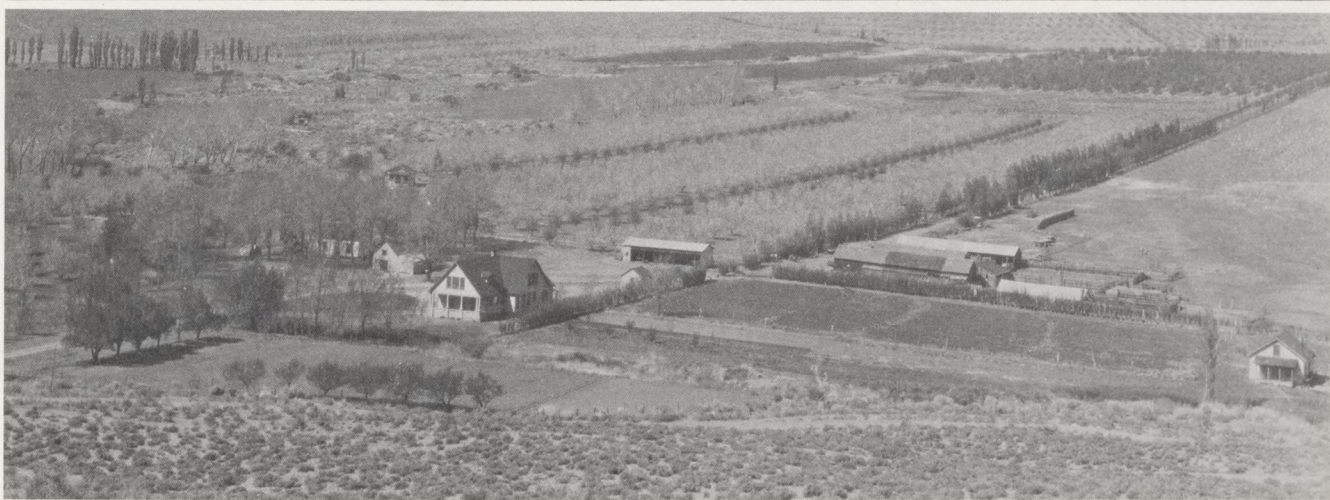
other agricultural pursuits. It was estimated one year that the income from poultry shipments to Nevada alone amounted to \$50,000.

The great handicap for farmers in the Owens River Valley was the difficulty of transportation. In a land where there were never crop failures due to lack of water, and where crops could be produced in great abundance, the demand for such produce rested mainly in the local markets. With the closing of the big mines such as the Cerro Gordo, even the local demands were cut. Cattle, sheep, and even horses could be driven out to market, but hauling by wagon such products as wheat and corn, scarcely paid for the effort in growing the crop. With the coming of the Carson-Colorado Railroad, marketing was greatly improved, but vegetables and fruits were still a problem to ship.

Few farmers enjoyed more ideal conditions than the Owens Valley farmers. He had few failures, fertile soil, plenty of water, a sky seldom clouded during the growing and ripening season, and was blessed by few diseases of his stock, and crops were seldom attacked by blight or bugs.

The purchase of the farm lands and water rights in the Owens River Valley by the City of Los Angeles changed the entire life of the people with the exceptions of a few farmers who did not sell. While still holding their lands, few of them continued to farm as in the early days, and today a number of them have sold land for subdivisions, or have broken their land into small parcels for home sites.

The people of the Owens River Valley no longer look to agriculture as a way of life. The cattle industry still flourishes, but otherwise the great farming days are gone.



The Red Mountain Fruit Ranch at the base of the Sierras near Big Pine was named after the volcanic cone nearby. With beautiful orchards surrounding well-kept ranch buildings, it produced fruit in abundance and was a showplace near Fish Springs. — Photo by Harry Mendenhall.



(Ray McMurry Collection)



(Photo by Harry Mendenhall)

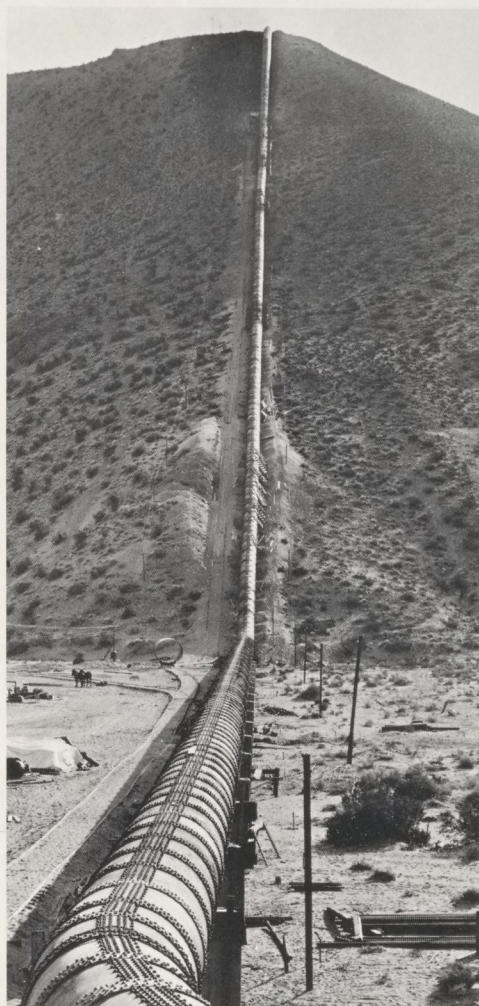
(Photo by Harry Mendenhall)



Upper left—When Art Hess of Bishop takes this photo out of his collection he is reminded of the time he posed in a cornfield to show the height of the stalks when agriculture was at its height in Owens Valley. Upper right — Scene of an Indian thresher crew sacking grain shortly after the change of the century. Center — Big Pine peaches made a good display at all county fairs. Lower right — Artesian well on Joe Vail ranch between Bishop and Big Pine shows abundance of underground flow.

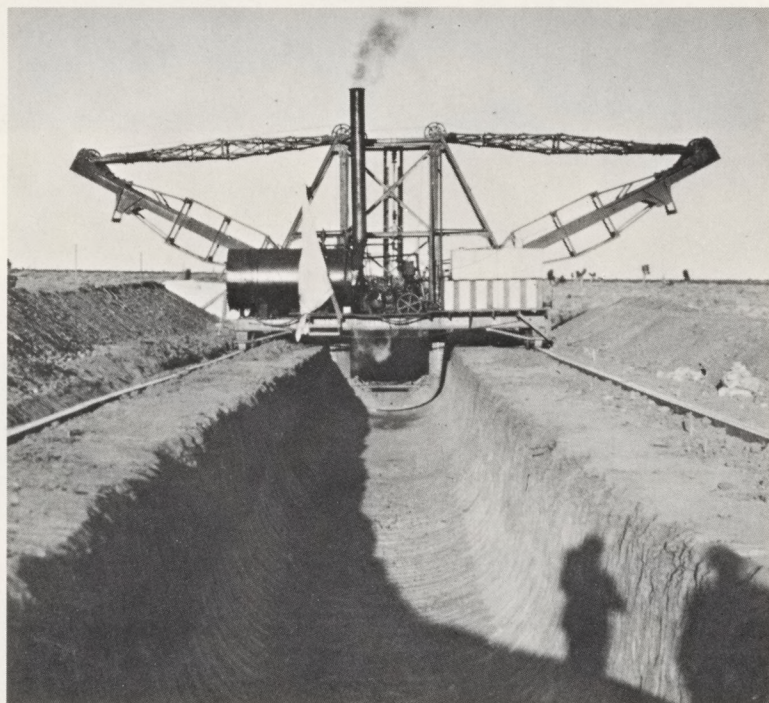


Upper left—Fifty-two mule team hauling pipe sections for Jawbone Siphon from the railroad siding at Cinco up Jawbone Canyon. Center left—Jawbone Siphon pipe varied in size from 7½ feet to 10 feet. Siphons of this type comprise 12 miles of aqueduct's total length. Bottom—Electric dredge used to excavate unlined section of the aqueduct in the Owens Valley. Dredge utilized power generated at Division Creek Power Plants No. 1 and 2—Photos from Dept. of Water and Power, City of Los Angeles.





Upper left—Workmen show concrete—lining a section of the Los Angeles - Owens River Aqueduct west of Owens Lake. Center— Machine excavation for covered conduit section of aqueduct near Mojave.—Photos from Dept. Water and Power, City of Los Angeles. Bottom—First Owens Valley water being diverted to the aqueduct with Inyoites witnessing the event.—Photo courtesy W. G. Stewart.



Inyo and The City of Los Angeles

Any historical treatment of Inyo County during the centennial period from 1866 to 1966 would not be complete without considerable reference to the City of Los Angeles. Indeed, the destinies of these two areas have been interrelated to a rather significant degree. While the efforts of the City to acquire a water supply come to mind first, the relationship actually begins, perhaps coincidentally, at the very beginning of the Inyo County history now being celebrated. That was a time when the wealth of Inyo County was primarily in mineral resources and was reflected in the rapid growth of mining towns. It was at a time when Los Angeles, with a population of some 5,000 people, was comparable in population to Inyo County.

Of all the mines in Inyo County, possibly the greatest and certainly the most influential, was the Cerro Gordo—a rich lead and silver strike located high in the Inyo Mountains above Owens Lake. The bars of bullion from this mine and smelter meant nothing, however, unless they were shipped to San Francisco which was then the financial center of the West. Oddly enough, the best method of transporting the bullion at that time was by shipment on mule and wagon trains to Los Angeles where it was loaded on sailing vessels bound for San Francisco.

The production of the Cerro Gordo mine, which began in 1867, was so massive for the next decade that the transportation of this bullion became a major factor in the commercial activity in Los Angeles. This activity developed not only from the employment furnished and the large amounts of hay and barley grown in the Los Angeles area simply to support the teams but also because it was logical for the teams returning to Cerro Gordo to haul tools, machinery, produce, dry goods, and many other items needed to sustain the burgeoning town that developed at the mine. This commercial activity was the cornerstone of financial development in Los Angeles and, actually, was the beginning of its transformation from a village to a metropolis.

By 1880 the coming of the railroads and the attractions of climate and opportunity were continuing the expansion in Los Angeles that the Cerro Gordo Mine of Inyo County had done so much to start. During this period the City had obtained the water for its growing demands from the Los Angeles River and springs in the surrounding hills. As growth continued, however, these sources became inadequate and wells were dug to increase the supply.

At the turn of the century Los Angeles had a population of 100,000 and by 1904 this had increased to 200,000. The inadequacy of the privately-owned water system had become apparent and this system was taken over by the City as a municipal operation in 1902. During these years the limitations on the local water resources also

became apparent and William Mulholland, then Chief Engineer of the newly-formed Water Department, began a search for additional supplies. The future of the City of Los Angeles would depend on his success.

Once again the history of Inyo County was to be influenced by that of Los Angeles for it was in the Owens River that Mulholland found the water supply he sought. At that time the Owens River, which was fed by snows in the Sierra Nevada bordering the west side of Owens Valley, discharged into the highly saline Owens Lake a water supply sufficient to meet the requirements of nearly 2,000,000 people. The City filed an application on the water in this river at a point a few miles north of the Town of Independence in Inyo County and purchased the lands bordering the river between this point and the Owens Lake. Mulholland and his engineers then conceived and built an aqueduct 233 miles in length across the mountains and deserts formerly travelled by the Cerro Gordo mule trains. This aqueduct was a unique and massive undertaking for its day and is still an outstanding engineering achievement; but, more than this, it insured a water supply for the City of Los Angeles for a future population of 2,000,000 people, which was thought then to be at least one hundred years away.

The aqueduct was completed in 1913 and, as the lands purchased in Inyo County had not seriously affected the agricultural development which was generally north of the aqueduct intake, the next few years were uneventful.

In the early 1920's, years of severe drought not only reduced the flow in the Owens River at the aqueduct intake but increased the demand in Los Angeles for water from this source. In addition the City, with its newfound water supply, was growing in excess of all anticipation. To offset these conditions, the City drilled wells in the Owens Valley to augment the river flow and began the purchase of additional ranch lands in the Owens Valley north of the aqueduct intake. It was the negotiations for these purchases and the purchases themselves that set the stage for the critical years in the history of Inyo County that were to follow. While this history has been the subject of many writers from many different points of view, the underlying fact is that the acquisition of land and water rights by the City of Los Angeles for an essential purpose had a profound and lasting effect on the course of history in Inyo County. Although efforts were made to offset the impact of these developments, the most important ingredient in adjusting to the changed conditions would prove to be time.

The continued purchase of lands by the City of Los Angeles through the late 1920's and early 1930's and the resultant effect on farming activities, caused apprehension among business people in the Valley towns regarding future economic conditions. At their request,

therefore, the City extended its purchases into the business communities and by the mid-1930's Los Angeles had acquired more than 90% of privately-owned lands, both business and rural, in the Owens Valley. In order to stabilize and support the economy in the area the City of Los Angeles, working with the people of Inyo County, began leasing its properties for continued operation and, in many cases the former owners, both rural and business, continued as lessees on properties they formerly owned.

Although diversion of water from the area had its most pronounced effect on the agricultural activity, there was a conversion of this activity to a predominantly livestock raising economy which was more adaptable to the new conditions. The City which, during the 1930's, had extended its aqueduct system into Mono County and had constructed Crowley Lake, was able to make some water available for the irrigation of alfalfa and pasture crops to support this economy. While these and other measures taken through the combined efforts of the City and the people of Inyo County were accompanied by strife and occasionally by violence, they served a notable purpose in bridging the transition period and preserving an economic continuity which, at one time, was thought to have been lost. Their success was reflected in a request by the business community in the Owens Valley for the City to return ownership of the town properties to the local people who wished to continue making their homes and conducting business in the Valley. This was done, and since the late 1930's the majority of the lands formerly owned by the City of Los Angeles within the Owens Valley towns have been returned to private ownership.

However, during the period of adjustment there began to appear a potential of wealth in Inyo County which again related its history to the City of Los Angeles. The enduring resources of Inyo County—its scenic mountains, lakes and streams, broad deserts, and its history—were attracting the recreationists and tourists from the now great metropolis to the South. The wealth of Cerro Gordo was beginning to return to Inyo County in the form of the tourist dollar. While continuing the support of the cattle industry in the Valley, the City of Los Angeles now began working with the people of Inyo County and Mono County, as well as with the United States Forest Service and the State Department of Fish and Game in promoting the development of this new resource—recreation. Out of this has come the great fishery at Crowley Lake, lands available for new fish hatcheries, camp grounds and historical sites, and the opening of most of the City lands in the Owens Valley to the public for fishing, hunting and other activities. These activities, which demonstrate the modern concept of multiple use of natural resources, both land and water, indicate the future course of Inyo County's history. In this sense, the lands and the water they produce provide a unique and extensive recreational area for the people of the State and specifically those of Southern California, many of whom subsequently rely on this same water for their very existence.

With the population of Los Angeles now approaching 3,000,000, this continuing growth requires the maxi-

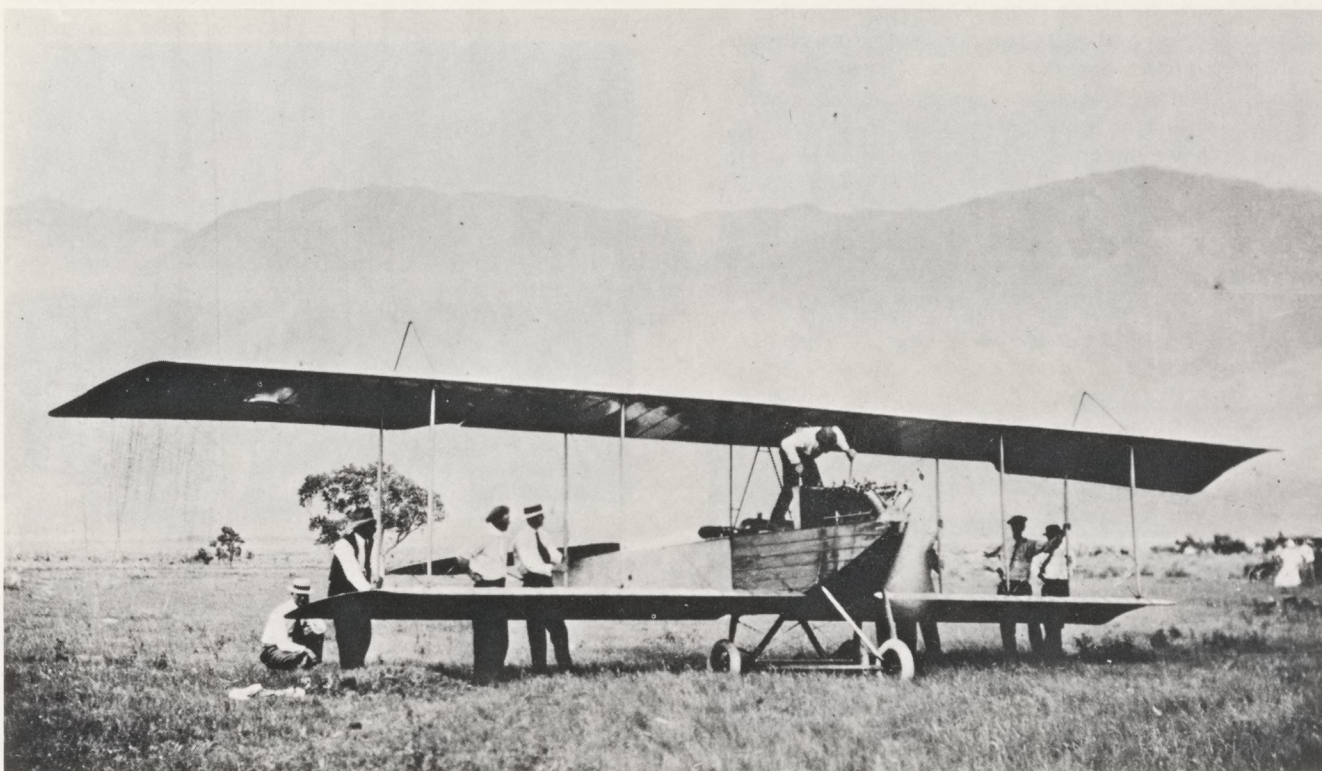
mum utilization of all water resources. For this reason, the City is again relating its future to that of Inyo County with construction of a second aqueduct from that source. This second aqueduct, which will be about one-half the size of the first, will rely on increased efficiency in management of the watershed areas and ground water basins for its supply. In Inyo County the water supply facilities will be relatively unchanged and the mountains, streams, lakes and lands will continue their contribution to recreation. With the history of the past in mind, steps are even now being taken to insure the continuation of Inyo County as one of the great resource and recreational areas of the State.



Top—Plaza area of Los Angeles, Circa 1880. Lower—Division Creek Power Plant No. 2, built 1909, still operating.—Photos from Dept. Water and Power, City of Los Angeles.



Upper—When John Schober of Bishop was questioned about his father's (A. J. Schober) steam tractor he described it as a Daniel Best, weighing 22 tons empty with a 1,000 gallon water tank. Purchased with the thought of replacing some of the long line teams and handling larger pay loads. Put in service to haul in materials for erection of the Saline Valley tramway it caved in three road culverts on its way into the valley and it developed that more horses than then in use had to be employed hauling water for its boiler. Activated in the hauling of equipment and material from Laws up Bishop Creek when the power plants were being constructed, it was credited with breaking bridge timbers on the Owens River and snapping a $\frac{7}{8}$'s inch cable secured to its wagon load. Another of its bad habits was caving in manhole covers. — Art Hess Collection.



On its second attempt this biplane flew over Mt. Whitney June 25, 1914, setting a new American altitude record. The plane was considered by many to be the foremost in manufacture and precision workmanship. Silas Christofferson, was the pilot.—Lottie Arcularius collection.



(Walter Sproul Collection)

Upper—The word "Rainbow" has had a wide usage throughout Inyo County during the years. It had nothing to do with the refraction and reflection of the sun's rays but was closely hinged to the name of a trout species widely planted in the area. Gas stations, garages, a club, camp, and cafe were among those that used the word. Here is shown a service station at West Line and Main Streets in Bishop some 40 years ago. Center—Part of a Rainbow Day trout display in 1925. Lower—The Rainbow Club with its volunteer workers may be credited with much of the fish planting activities of many years ago. Members of the club proudly display a day's catch in front of their planting truck.

(Beatrice Alexander Collection)



(Beatrice Alexander Collection)



An Invitation to Catch Golden Trout

(NOTE—Research fails to reveal much of the very early history of propagation and planting of trout in Inyo County nor was there reliable recording of events leading up to game preservation and establishment of laws governing limits. The following, regarding the extension of golden trout fishing, which annually attracts thousands of sportsmen to the area is taken from an article in Outdoor California. Permission to reprint has been given by the author, Phil Pister, Fishery Biologist of the Dept. of Fish and Game).

A little-known fact is that the streams flowing easterly off the crest of the southern Sierra Nevada contained no native trout. Colonel Stevens' desire to have fish in Cottonwood Creek near his sawmill resulted in what may have been the first transplant of golden trout into waters other than their native habitat, the full significance of which he would never realize. In 1876 13 golden trout were taken by the colonel and his crew from a small tributary to the South Fork Kern River (Mulkey Creek) and transported in a coffee pot over the Hockett trail to Cottonwood Creek, a distance of about four miles.

These fish thrived in their new home and in 1891 about 100 goldens were collected from Cottonwood Creek and taken several miles upstream past impassable barriers to the Cottonwood Lakes at the head of the drainage. As is common when barren waters receive an initial stocking of fish, the newly planted goldens and their progeny grew rapidly, and fish weighing over five pounds were reported by early-day anglers.

About the turn of the century, golden trout began to be distributed into barren waters throughout the southern Sierra Nevada. This was done by collecting adult fish from small streams in their native habitat and transporting them by pack train. By 1914 the range of the golden trout had been extended nearly 100 miles northward from the upper Kern River drainage. However, this method of collecting and distributing fish was both expensive and laborious. Occasionally, it was necessary to hold fish in pack cans for as long as 14 days prior to planting. Consequently, more efficient methods of extending the range of the golden trout were sought.

The completion of the Mt. Whitney State Fish Hatchery in 1917 marked the first major step in the establishment of large-scale stocking programs for the many waters throughout the high Sierra. The following year (1918) the first golden trout spawning operations were conducted by the Department of Fish and Game at the Cottonwood Lakes. An attempt to collect eggs the previous year proved unsuccessful; the fish had finished spawning before operations could commence.

To avoid the possibility of being too late in the spring of 1918, the first reconnaissance trip was made in mid-March. The lakes, over 11,000 feet in elevation,

were found to be completely covered with about six feet of ice and snow. The same condition existed in mid-May, but ripe male goldens were observed in the outlet of the lowest lake.

On June 1, 1918, the Cottonwood Lakes spawning station was opened for the first time, when two men from Mt. Whitney Hatchery left with pack animals from Lone Pine, traveling a distance of 26 miles and climbing over 7,000 feet to install traps and holding pens. On June 13, the first egg-take was made.

In the early days golden trout eggs were shipped throughout the western United States and, in some instances, to foreign countries. It is no longer permissible under the law to export golden trout or their eggs from California. Goldens are commonly reared and planted in other areas of the west, but these fish are all descendants of the original Cottonwood Lakes stock.

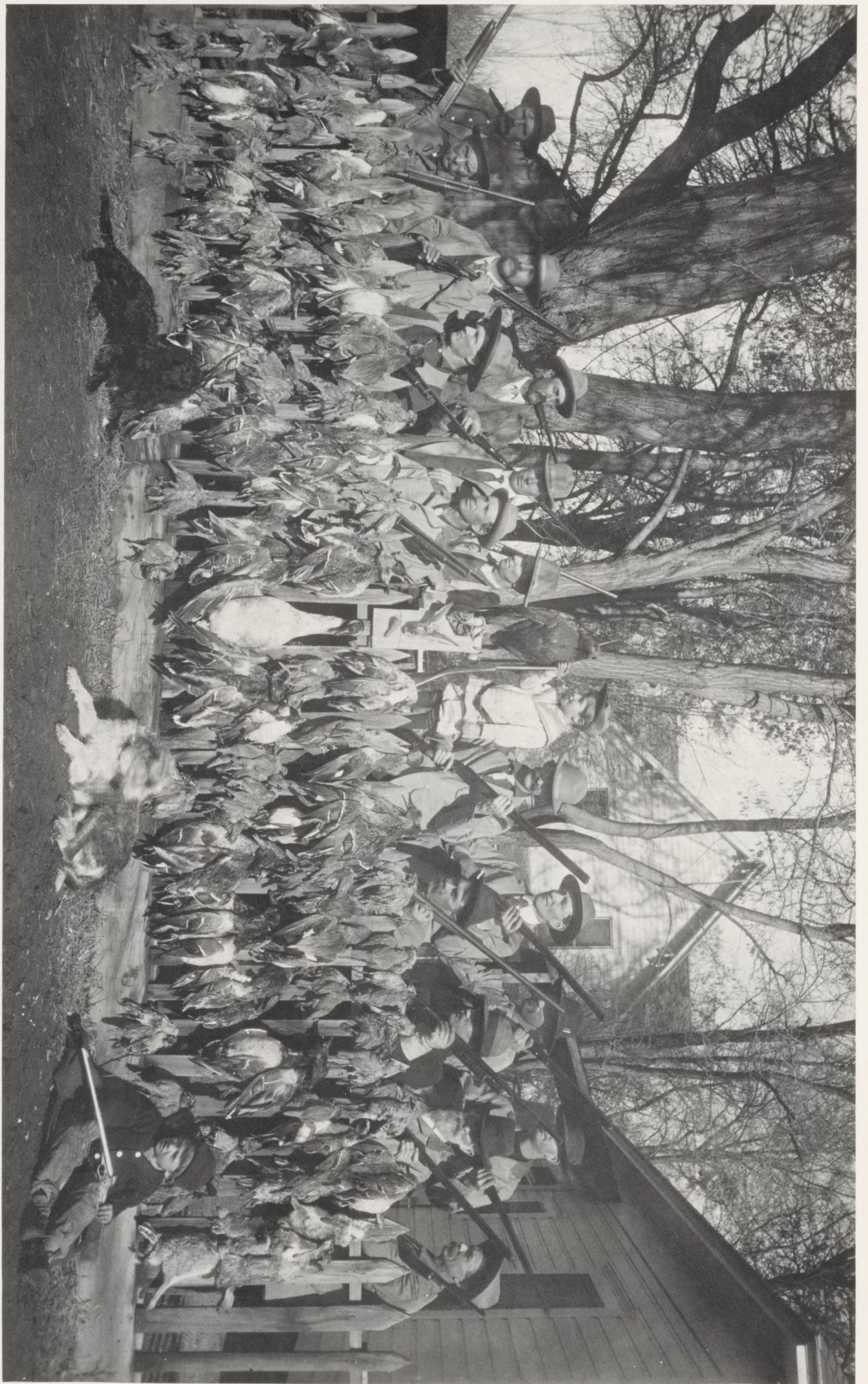
While it has been possible to develop hatchery broodstocks of most of the other species of trout planted by the Department of Fish and Game, golden trout have steadfastly refused to become domesticated. Consequently, the methods employed in the golden trout egg-taking program today are essentially the same as those pioneered in 1918, although a road to the vicinity of Carroll Creek has somewhat lessened the distance and elevation to be traveled.

Each spring (usually by early June) crews from Mt. Whitney Hatchery leave the Carroll Creek roadhead on horseback, leading a string of pack mules loaded with supplies and equipment necessary for the spawning operations. A considerable portion of the trip is generally made over snow and ice, since spring comes late in the high country. Working in freezing water is a difficult and tiring chore, and the small sheet iron cabin built in 1930 still provides a welcome haven at the end of a hard day's work.

Traps are installed at the inlets and outlets of the five lakes, and each morning the trapped fish are sorted according to sex and readiness for spawning. Every five days the fish are spawned, and the fertilized eggs are held overnight in running water. The following day the eggs are placed in pack cans and loaded onto mules for the trip to the Carroll Creek roadhead, where they are taken by truck to Mt. Whitney Hatchery.

Beginning at this point, various technological advances are now used which were unheard of in 1918. In order to speed hatching, the eggs are now placed in temperature-controlled incubators rather than in hatchery troughs where the hatching rate is much slower. Once hatched, the young fish must be handled with great care, since their crowded hatchery existence makes them susceptible to disease.

They are fed a newly developed dry ration in the



This photo, taken about 60 years ago, shows members of the Big Pine Sportsmen Club displaying their prowess as hunters. The occasion for the display came about when half of the membership challenged the balance to a hunt, in which different kinds of game were rated in points. Losers were to stand a banquet at the Black Hotel. Jess Thomas identifies the participants as follows, from left to right: Lee Mopin, Joe Drouillard, Bill Rogers, Jess Thomas, Kist Cady, Dr. Turner (gun on shoulder, wearing dark tie), Henry Woo dum, Geo. Hall (left of mounted bird) Alan Hall, (boy), Ed. Ober, Joe Wright, Joe Woolridge, Elton Baker, Percy Watson, Whist Blake, Bob Reinhackle, Bob Blake and Bill Davis; boy in front, Donald McCormick.—Alliene Hunnewill Collection.

hatchery, but it is still necessary to supplement their diet with fresh meat, a practice generally unnecessary for other species of trout. Since size at time of planting greatly influences their chances of survival, every effort is made to obtain the quickest possible growth. Even so, they seldom exceed 0.01 ounce apiece at planting time in early September.

At this stage of the program we note the greatest change from the old days. Whereas all back-country planting up through the 1940s was done by means of pack stock, today the department's twin-engine Beechcraft accomplishes the job in a fraction of the time at greatly reduced cost. Lists of lakes and numbers of trout to be planted in them are furnished the hatchery superintendents and, in early September, hatcherymen arise about 2 a.m., weigh out the proper number of goldens, place them in marked aluminum cans and transport them to the Bishop or Long Valley airstrips.

The department's pilots, furnished with clearly marked maps and aerial photographs, drop their cargo unerringly into the many back-country lakes of the Sierra containing golden trout, thus helping to provide unique golden trout fishing for California's ever-increasing throngs of back-country anglers. The two-week trip by mule train is now a thing of the past. Seldom do more than a few hours elapse between initial loading and air-drop.



Upper—Cottonwood Lakes spawning station was opened June 1, 1918. It is here that Golden trout eggs are taken as early in the year as weather condition will permit. Center—First method of transporting trout plant was performed by pack trains, a method which resulted in time loss and high mortality rate. — Photos from Phil Pister collection. Lower—Present planting is conducted by plane with only a few hours of elapsed time. — Department of Fish and Game photo.



(Union Pacific Railroad Photo)

Top—Each summer sees Forest Service crews engaged in construction and maintenance of mountain trails which will allow visitors to be packed into the backcountry of the Sierras. Lone Pine Lake. Center — One of the early ranger stations was located at Longley Meadows, west of Bishop. Bottom— Sheep grazing on high reserves of the Forest Service — Lower photos from Forest Service.



Millions Visit Inyo National Forest

On May 25, 1907, President Theodore Roosevelt issued a proclamation setting aside 221,324 acres of the Sierra Forest Reserve as the Inyo National Forest. The Sierra Forest Reserve had been established fourteen years previously to protect over three million acres of mountainous lands for future wood and water production. Upon its inception, Inyo National Forest extended along the east escarpment of the Sierra Nevada range from Georges Creek (north to Alabama Hills) to Deadman Summit. In 1908 additional lands were included in the Forest; the Glass Mountains, White Mountains and Inyo Mountains. The area north of Deadman Summit was included in Mono National Forest and the area south of Georges Creek was part of Kern National Forest. Other additions or deletions were made in 1911, 1919, 1923 and in 1946 when the Forest was extended north to Conway Summit. As of 1965 the Forest encompasses 1,891,334 acres of land; equal to the combined size of Delaware and Rhode Island or larger than the combined acreages of the four National Parks in California: Yosemite, Kings Canyon, Sequoia and Lassen.

No inspection trips were made to the "east side" from the date of the establishment of the Sierra Forest Reserve in 1893 until the summer of 1902. Sheep grazing had begun in the area in the 1860's and by 1902 the problem of uncontrolled use by sheep was serious. The sheep grazing was in trespass since this use was outlawed in Forest Reserves from 1893 until 1905. Heavy damage to forage plants occurred and meadows were trampled to barren flats. In the fall as the sheep were driven from the mountains prior to 1902, fires were set behind the bands to clear trails and improve future grazing. Large fires could be seen from Owens Valley and the whole summit would be blanketed in smoke. The uncontrolled fires often continued into the timberlands and caused heavy destruction of trees and wildlife habitat.

During the summer of 1902, officers of the Forest Reserve began efforts to control the sheep. They escorted the bands up Owens Valley in the spring, patrolled in the summer to check on compliance with use of grazing areas and then escorted the bands south in the fall. The sheepmen resented this regulation since they had previously grazed their sheep when and where they pleased. A Forest Officer, George Naylor, (later sheriff of Inyo County for 4 years and County Supervisor for several terms) shot a sheepman in self defense west of Convict Lake in 1903. He was acquitted at a trial held that year. This incident as well as others of a more minor nature stirred up resentment of the local residents as they sympathized with the sheepmen who spent money at stores and bought stubble, cornstalks and hay from the local ranchers. A good many years passed before the Forest Service was truly welcomed in the valley.

Timber cutting has occurred on the Forest since the early mining days. Remains of old sawmills are found

throughout the Forest, but the amount of timber on the east side is quite limited and no large cutting operations have ever developed.

Recreational use of the Forest has been a factor since its origination, but the first attempt to organize such use was undertaken in 1916 when general prosperity, and road improvements from Southern California brought in the first influx of tourists. The first record of an investment in recreation improvements was that of Greys Meadow Campground in 1918. In the early 1920's several campgrounds, resorts and summer home tracts were in existence. Upon setting up of the CCC, substantial progress was made in the development of campgrounds in the late 30's. Relatively little construction took place from 1940 until 1956 at which time public pressures on facilities of the National Parks and National Forests aided Congress into appropriating larger funds for such work. Since that time, construction of campgrounds, picnic grounds, observation points and swimming beaches has continued on a modest basis.

The earliest recorded figures on recreation use on the Forest were those of 1939 with 156,821 visits. By 1965 this figure had mushroomed to 3,200,000 recreation visits.

In addition to the support of the local economy through recreational development, grazing, timber, and watershed, the Forest had a payroll of \$617,592 in 1965. As a comparison, the July 1908 payroll was \$599.49, while the July 1965 payroll was \$86,153. The total Forest budget in 1965 was approximately \$1,100,000.



(U. S. Forest Service Photo)

The ever increasing interest in outdoor sport and recreation has brought about considerable expansion of campground facilities by the Forest Service in Inyo County, similar to the scene shown above.

J. H. Lubken
Lone Pine



C. S. Bigelow
Bishop



John Baxter,
Independence



A. P. Mairs
Independence



Border — SOME INYO BRANDS — Early Brand Book of Alan Jacobs



J. C. Miller
Big Pine



D. Holland
Lone Pine



Upper—Cattle drives are still familiar scenes in Owens Valley as beef are driven to the summer ranges in the Sierra in the spring and gathered in the fall for return. Lower—There are those who say: "There's nothing like a hard day in the saddle to whet a man's appetite." Many of these cowboys will be entrants in the annual rodeo events at Bishop and Lone Pine. — Photos courtesy of Jess Chance.

Mrs. Carrie Hogue
Round Valley



W. R. Ford
Bishop



Livestock In Owens Valley

The livestock industry, as such, was not present in Inyo County prior to 1859. The pioneers that managed to come through had consumed their oxen and horses out of necessity.

Prospecting had been the main purpose of the immigrants to Owens Valley and with the coming of the mines, some livestock was driven through on the way to the mines in the north, and the good grazing was noted by the drovers.

In 1859 a small herd of cattle was brought into the county from Visalia, and in the spring of 1861 a larger herd of beef cattle was brought in to trail to the mines at Monoville, via Walker pass.

The first stockmen to come to stay were Henry Vansickle and A. Van Fleet, who came from Nevada. They went as far south as Lone Pine Creek before returning to a bend in the Owens River, at the present site of Laws.

Samuel A. Bishop started with his retinue from Fort Tejon, July 3, 1861. They drove between 500 and 600 head of cattle and 50 horses. He established a camp that he called San Francis about 3 miles southwest of the present site of Bishop.

The winter of 1861-62 saw 1500 head of cattle driven into the valley. Since the owners could see no reason for leaving the abundant grass, they stayed. This was the hardest winter on record and it was hard on both man and beast. This factor also presented another problem, as the Indians had few sources of food either, with the results the herds suffered. The whites lost many cattle before beginning retaliation.

In 1862, 400 head of cattle and 2500 head of sheep were moved from Bishop Creek to Putnam's (Independence) to escape the attacks of the Indians, who were convinced by the Indian Agent of the time that Owens Valley was theirs.

It was 1864 before the settlers moved back with partial relief from Indian attack. It is said that in 1873 there were 200,000 head of cattle, horses and sheep around Mt. Whitney, and many of them wintered in the valley. A "no fence" law was enacted in the valley making the livestock men responsible for damage the trail herds did to the agricultural lands.

Agriculture became an important part of the economy of the valley when it was discovered that anything would grow with the abundant water available. The livestock men produced good crops of alfalfa to feed their cattle during the winter.

Dairying, along with beef production came into its own. The cattle present during the early days were probably Shorthorn or Durham, not the cattle breeds found here today.

In 1917 it is reported that approximately 6500 head of beef cattle were shipped out yearly. According to a report of that time, the Hereford was the favorite breed,

with Durham or Shorthorn a close second. At that time there was only one purebred Angus herd in the valley, which sold only bulls for breeding stock. The principle market for cattle was the Los Angeles area.

With the coming of the City of Los Angeles, the lands were taken out of production for any useful purpose. In 1920, there were only 546 farms or ranches with approximately 25,000 head of cattle, and in 1964, there were 102 ranches with 26,000 head of cattle.

The land was leased back to the individual ranchers to form the cattle industry we know today in Owens Valley.



(Alliene Hunnewell Collection)



Upper—Heavy snowfall of 1916 presented the problem of moving stock to lower ranges. Here Len Summers' sheep pass through Big Pine with three foot of snow on level. Lower—A Belgian purebred stallion is here proudly displayed. Animal was imported at a cost of \$5,000.



Geo. W. Turner
Bishop



J. C. Baxter
Independence



100
Bishop

Ben Williams

Summers & Butler
Bishop



Steward Bros.
Big Pine

JS
Left hip



Border — SOME INYO BRANDS — Early Brand Book of Alan Jacobs



(Genevieve Clement Collection)

Upper—Value of Owens Valley wool through the years would present an impressive figure. The shearings shown here, when based on an average weight, would represent several tons per truck. A report in the Owens Valley Herald of 1912 stated a conservative figure of 80,000 head of sheep had passed through the valley that year. Lower—These young mules, bred for stamina and wind, near Big Pine, brought top market prices.



(Photo by Harry Mendenhall)

Gus Walker
Olancho



Arthur Lubken
Lone Pine



McQueen & Montague
Bishop

ML



J. E. Bell,
Independence



J. E. Rose

Bishop

JO





(Photo by Harry Mendenhall)



(W. G. Stewart Collection)



(Genevieve Clement Collection)

(Genevieve Clement Collection)

Top—On several ranches in the county numbers of turkeys were raised with those not consumed by the local market being shipped to Nevada mining camps. Center left—Herd of cattle grazing on valley pasture in 1910. Center right—After hay hands had been fed the noon meal, table and dishes cleaned, there was a lull and the ranch girls enjoyed a dip in the swimming hole at the bend of the river. Bottom—Bishop Market and its fixtures and stock were typical of stores in the early 1900's.



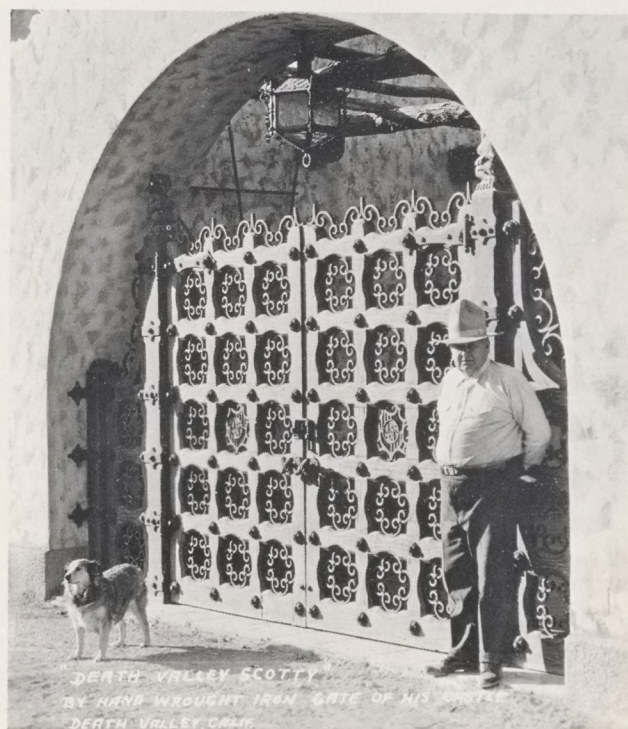


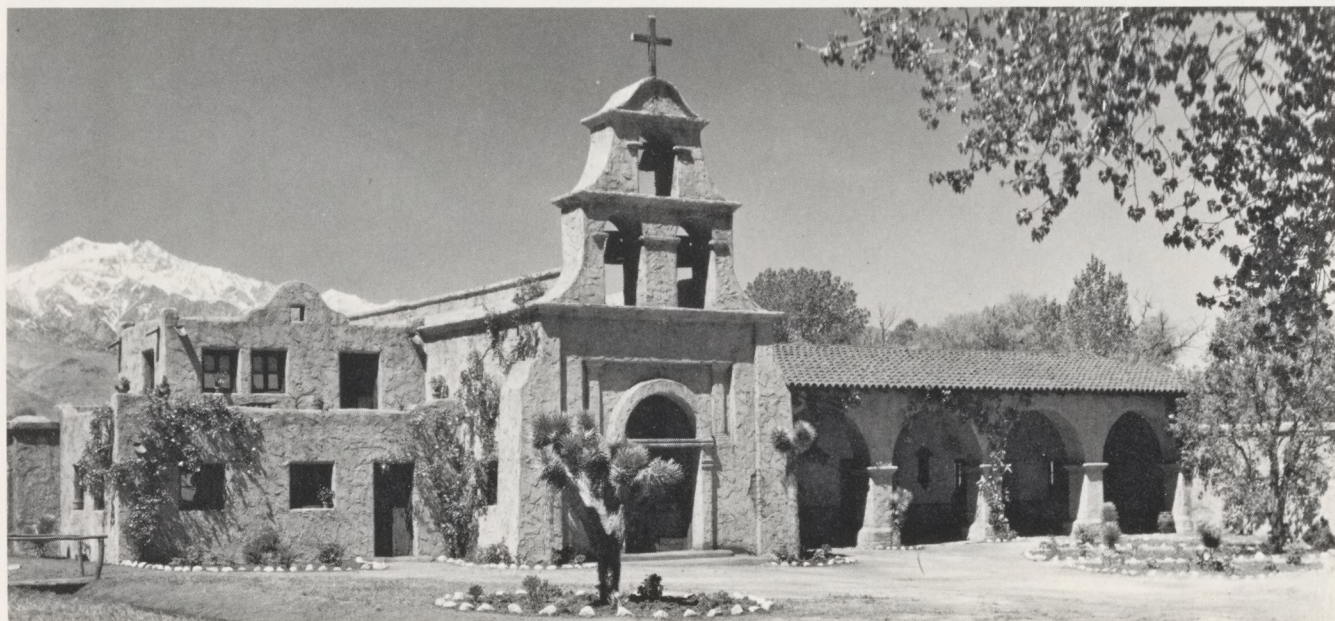
Inyo is a land of challenging contrasts. Upper—Summit of 14,495 foot Mt. Whitney, near Lone Pine, presents an area where vegetation is absent and cold winds can chill the visitor, even in the warmest days of summer. Visiting the registration cabin many years ago were: l. to r. W. C. Parcher, W. A. Chalfant, George Deibert, Burton Frasher, Sr. and B. E. Johnson. Lower—Furnace Creek Ranch, at an elevation of 178 feet below sea level, a bumper crop of dates is ready for harvest at the desert oasis that plays host to thousands of visitors each winter. — Photos courtesy of Frashers—Pomona.



(Eastern California Museum Photo)

Upper—Sponsored by Naval Research at the Owens Valley Radio Observatory, near Big Pine, these 90-foot radio “ears” have revealed much knowledge on the nature of radio sources, including the most distant known objects in the universe. The discs may be pointed to any location in the sky and moved along wheels on rails. A grant of \$1,645,000 from the National Science Foundation has made it possible for California Institute of Technology to contract with Westinghouse Electric Corporation to build a 130-foot dish, to augment the present structures. Lower—Death Valley Scotty (Walter Scott), poses in front of the entrance of the Moorish castle which he and insurance man, Albert Johnson built in Grapevine Canyon. Many thousands have taken the guided tour through the fabulous desert structure.





Upper—Street scene in the filming of "Nevada Smith," starring Steve McQueen. Plans are at present progressing to retain buildings for future filming and as an added attraction at Laws where the Bishop Museum and Historical Society is preserving the depot, engine and other equipment of the narrow gauge railroad.—Paramount Studios photo. Lower—The Spainhower Anchor Ranch, near Lone Pine, has proven popular through the years. Here a mission set is shown.—Jean Noland collection.



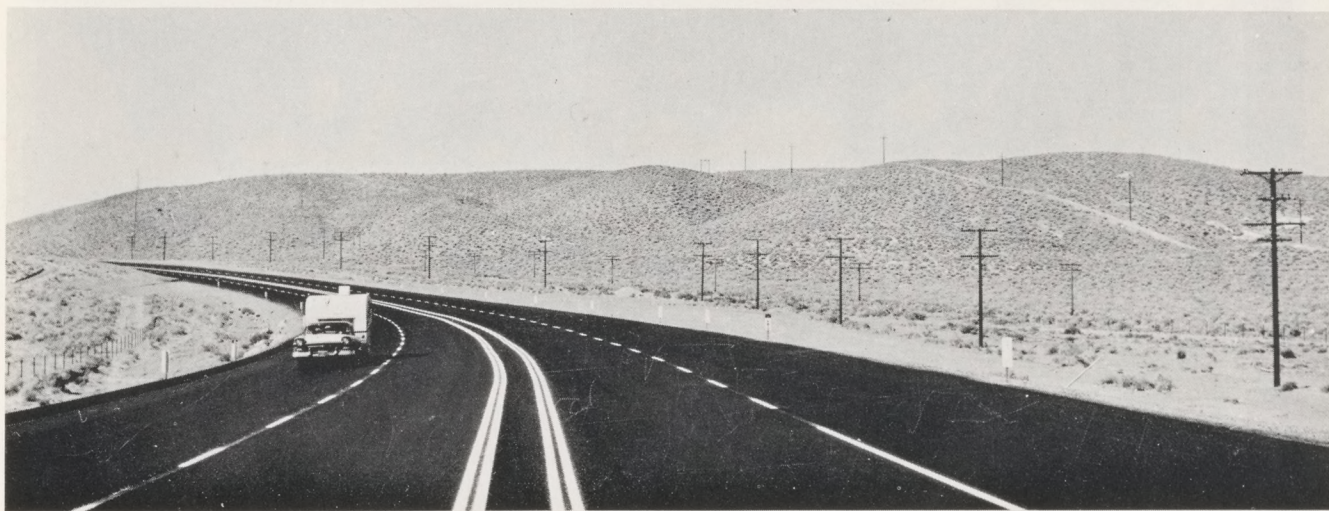
One of the larger movie productions "Gunga Din" which was filmed in the Alabama Hills west of Lone Pine.—(Collection of Jean Noland).

Inyo's Highways—



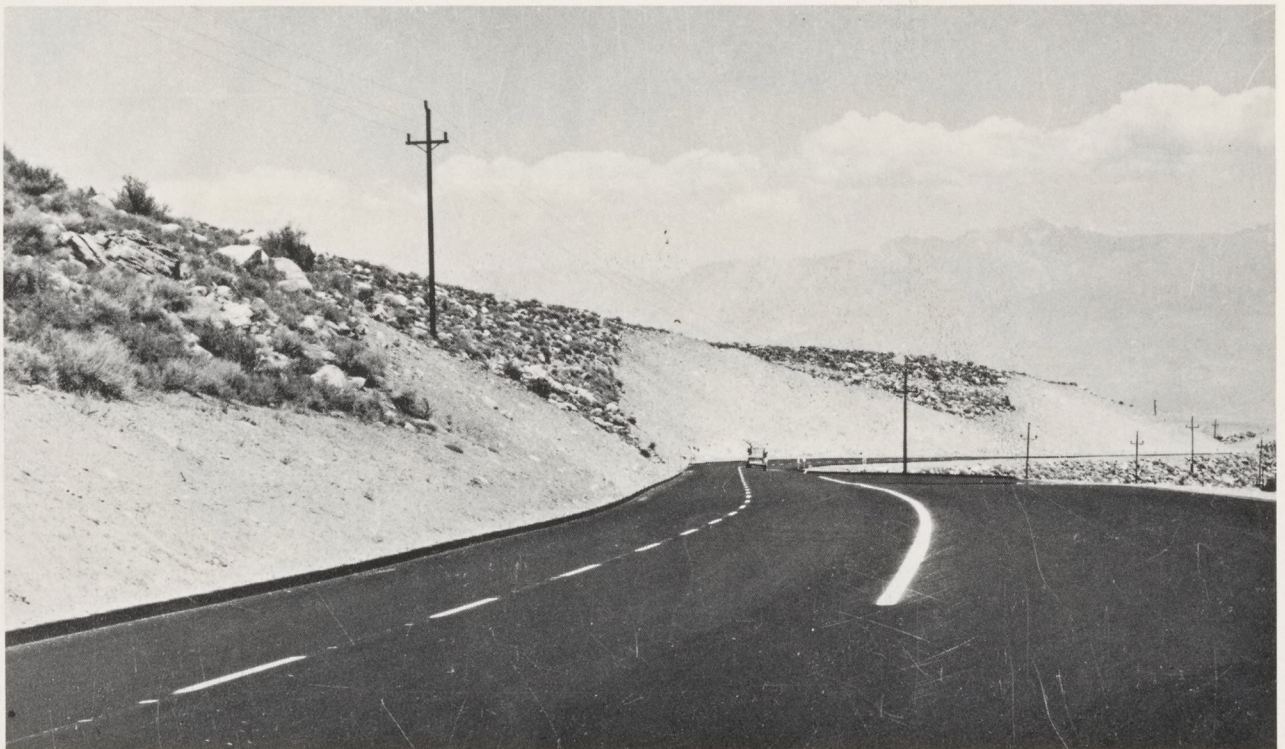
Upper—Rocky, rutted, narrow roads led south across the desert and presented a challenge to the traveler. Lower—Practically the same location as shown in upper photo is here shown with wide, divided highway where, in 1966 accessibility is taken for granted.

Yesterday and Today



Upper—In 1917, the shifting roadbed prompted the construction of 10.5 miles of 8 foot wide concrete pavement between Division Creek and the old Fish Springs school, south of Big Pine. The highway, completed in 1920, was the first and only one of its kind built in Inyo County. Lower — A modern asphalt highway now traverses the same area.

Upper—Touring Owens Valley about 1900 took courage but—Lower—in 1966 accessibility is taken for granted. Photos taken in same approximate location.



Upper—The trip up Bishop Creek was not for an afternoon picnic. Lower — Growing thousands now enjoy the High Sierra.

Yesterday and Today



Upper—The completion of Sherwin Grade in 1916 opened up a northern entrance to Inyo County. By actual count, 198 vehicles passed over the grade during the last week of construction. Lower — Pioneer developers, with amazing foresight, provided the broad streets and layout of towns in general use today. — Photos of highway subjects courtesy of Art Hess and Dist. IX, Division of Highways.



Southern California's only commercially active marble mine is located on the old Inyo Marble Properties comprising 3,000 acres situated approximately seven miles southeast of Lone Pine. Intermittent operations commenced on the vast marble deposit shortly after 1885 and reached a peak immediately after the turn of the century, when several large financial buildings in San Francisco and Los Angeles were faced with this stone. In 1959, Premier Marble Products, Alhambra, California, acquired and revitalized the operation, bringing it to its present state as one of the leading marble sources in the United States. In 1965, Inyo marble was shipped to Japan, the Philippines, Hawaii, and other exotic markets in addition to its domestic shipments. Of interest, too, is the Ghost Town of Dolomite which Premier Marble and the movie studios partially restored for the filming of such epics as, "How the West Was Won" (James Stewart), "Nevada Smith" (Steve McQueen), and other motion pictures depicting life in the Wild West. — Photo Premier Marble Products.



Commemorating the 100th birthday of Inyo County the Southeastern Sierra Coin Club has sponsored the striking of both silver and bronze Centennial Medals. Right—Front of medal contains informational wording bordering a picture of the famed "Slim Princess" and back of medal contains other objects which are associated closely with the history of the county, including: Indian petroglyphs, ancient Bristlecone Pine, Wildrose Canyon charcoal kilns, Scotty's Castle in Death Valley and Piute arrowheads. Al Winter was the designer.

Nonmetallics Known To World Market

PITTSBURGH PLATE GLASS COMPANY

This plant is one unit of the Chemical Division of Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company. In addition to the Bartlett Plant, the Chemical Division operates a number of other large chemical manufacturing units located at various places in the East and South. The Division also operates one unit in Canada.

Two principal products are manufactured in this plant: Soda Ash and Sodium Sesquicarbonate.

1. Soda Ash, (with a chemical formula of Na_2CO_3) is generally accepted as one of the oldest of the major chemicals in use today—dating back perhaps some 5,000 years when the ash residues of certain plants were used in making soap and glass for ornamental purposes. Soda Ash is one of the most important—if not the most important—of the basic chemicals. It is used to some extent in virtually every basic industry, and in dozens of those industries it is an essential raw material. By far, the largest single use of soda ash (between 30 and 35% of the total) is in the manufacture of glass.

2. Sodium Sesquicarbonate, (with a chemical formula of $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3 \cdot \text{NaHCO}_3 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$) is a milder form of alkali than soda ash, and finds its primary outlet directly in the manufacture of washing compounds and cleaning agents.

Both products are shipped in either bulk form or in 100 lb. bags.

The Bartlett unit is called a natural soda plant since it extracts the natural sodas from the brines of Owens Lake. These brines then are the plant's chief raw material.

Owens Lake is a source of important non-metallic minerals such as sodium carbonate, borax, sodium chloride, sodium sulfate, and potassium chloride. However, at present, sodium carbonate is the only mineral being commercially extracted.

The pink color often seen on Owens Lake is caused by bacteria. Under suitable conditions of temperature, sunlight, and brine strength, these bacteria multiply, thus deepening the pink color. The sunlight and brine strength are always favorable for the growth of these organisms but the cooler winter temperatures retard their growth, thus making the color less evident to the eye. The bacteria are pinkish due to the action of the sunlight as, in a similar manner, leaves are green due to the action of the sunlight.

Owens Lake is known as a closed basin. Closed basins are phenomena of arid or semi-arid regions where outflow is considerably less than in-flow and where accordingly soluble salts concentrate in the residue liquid.

The geologists tell us that Owens Lake at one time was part of a drainage system comprising the Owens River, Owens Lake, Indian Wells Valley, Searles Lake, Panamint Valley and Death Valley. Also they estimated that at some time approximately 4,000 years ago, the

Owens River and Owens Lake became separated from the rest of the system, and Owens Lake thus became a closed basin, with no outlet to the sea, in which the salts now being produced again, to accumulate.

As early as 1865, despite Indian troubles and the customary difficulties of travel, communications, and obtaining supplies, some locations were made on the lake for obtaining salt and soda. Since then a number of plants, at various times and using various processes, have operated on the lake.

A drastic change occurred in the composition and nature of the Lake during the period 1913 - 1923, when the City of Los Angeles built an aqueduct and diverted the flow of the Owens River. With the diversion of the river, the Lake began to dry up because, in this area, evaporation is considerably larger than the precipitation. By 1923, the Lake had reached a relatively stationary condition, consisting of a salt bed, (from 0 to 7 ft. thick) through which saturated brine circulated. The voids or open spaces in the crystal body, constituting 30 to 35% of the volume, contains the saturated brine of varying strengths, holding up to as much as 35% anhydrous salts. Brine also covers various parts and portions of the salt surface. Water make-up to the Lake now occurs through precipitation, surface and underground springs, etc. The present bed of the Lake has an area of about 75 to 100 square miles.

The original plant at this location was built by the Pacific Alkali Company, founded in 1927. Columbia-Southern Chemical Corporation purchased the plant from Pacific Alkali in 1944, and with some changes and additions continued to operate the facilities until 1958 when an extensive modernization program was completed. Practically all of the old equipment was dismantled and a completely new and modern plant was built as a replacement. The most recent change, and one affecting only our corporate structure, occurred on January 1, 1961 when Columbia-Southern Chemical Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary, became a division of Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company.

SIERRA TALC & CHEMICAL COMPANY

Sierra Talc came into being in 1917 when the Symond's talc property, at what is now called Talc City, was acquired by members of the Booth family—Franklin, Percy, and Willis. The Inyo Talc Company was formed and later in 1919, this became Sierra Talc Company.

A mill was built at Keeler primarily to produce sawed and shaped pieces of talc to use as the insulator in the newly developing electric iron that became famous as the Hotpoint iron. Since there was a large amount of waste talc in such an operation, the Sierra Talc Company built its first grinding plant to produce two grades

of high grade cosmetic talcs, known as Snow and Cloud. Both products are still produced at Keeler and Grand Island, Nebraska.

Sierra expanded its operations into Death Valley, where ceramic and paint grades of talc were mined and processed in Los Angeles.

During World War II the Talc City property was the largest producer of the then highly critical steatite talc for electronic insulators.

During and after World War II, Sierra Talc expanded holdings and introduced the clay near Olancho to the decolorizing of edible and inedible oils, and later to the insecticide business through its grinding plant at the Olancho siding on the Southern Pacific Railroad.

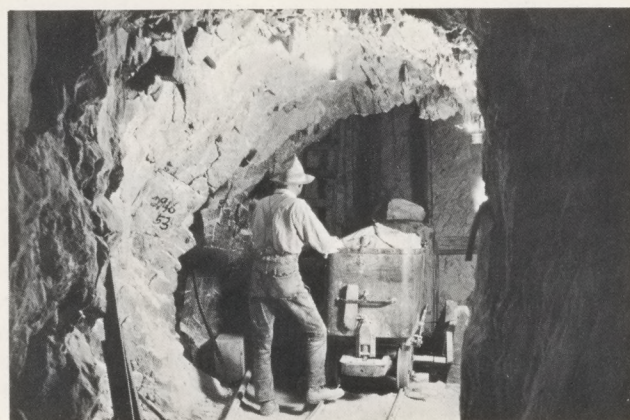
The ownership changed in 1944 when Vincent G. Dodds acquired controlling interest. Otis Booth, son of Franklin, was the other owner.

As far as Inyo County is concerned, Sierra owns or controls the Talc City deposits, the four properties in Saline Valley, the Panamint mine above Warm Springs canyon in Death Valley, the clay mine near Olancho, the Alberta Mine near White Mountain, and the two grinding plants at Keeler and Olancho.

Sierra now owns large talc mines in Madison County, Montana and large deposits in West Texas between Sierra Blanca and Van Horn. It has grinding facilities at Three Forks, Montana, Grand Island, Nebraska, and Los Angeles.

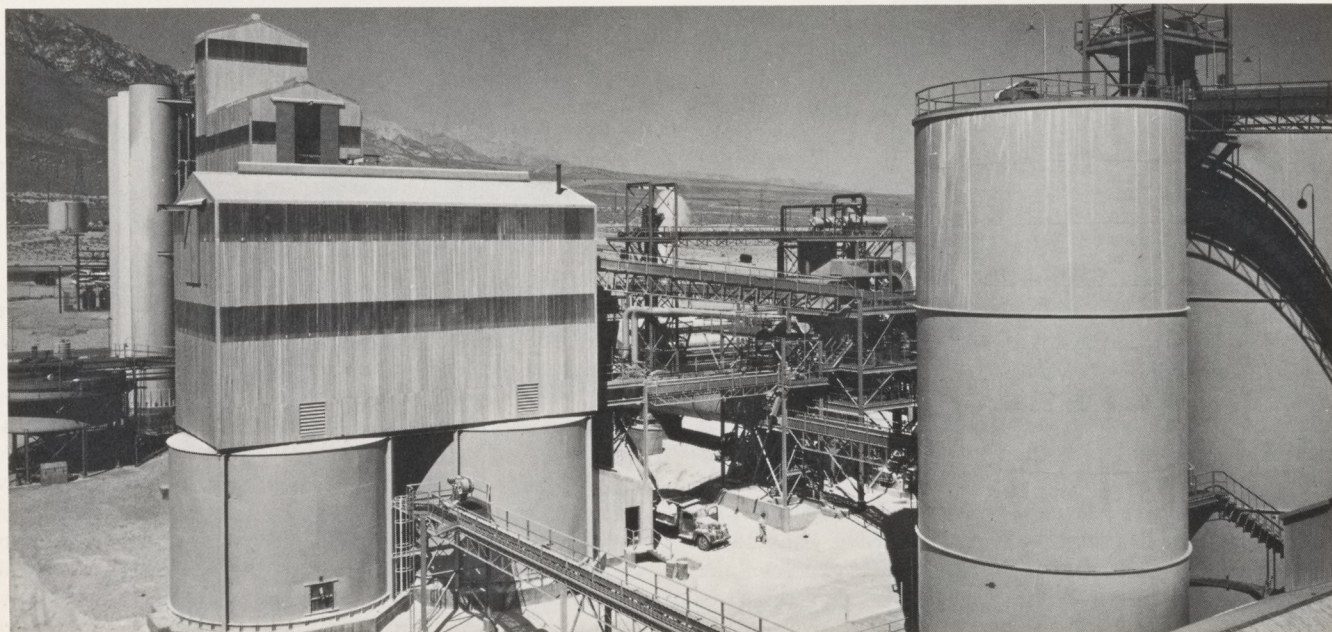
In addition to the Inyo mines, Sierra owns, leases, or operates many talc properties in San Bernardino County and in Esmeralda County, Nevada.

Sierra has been known as Inyo Talc Company, Sierra Talc Company, Sierra Talc & Clay Company, Sierra Talc Company, and upon its acquisition in July 1964 by Cyprus Mines Corporation became Sierra Talc & Chemical Company Division of Cyprus Mines Corporation. The latest name more accurately describes the company's activities which are now world-wide.



Upper—Exterior view of talc operations with foreign material in dumps in background. Second—Miner with loaded underground tram car which will be taken to surface for processing. — Photos by C. O. Best.

Lower—New, modern plant, used by Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co. in refining of soda products from Owens Lake.— Company photo.





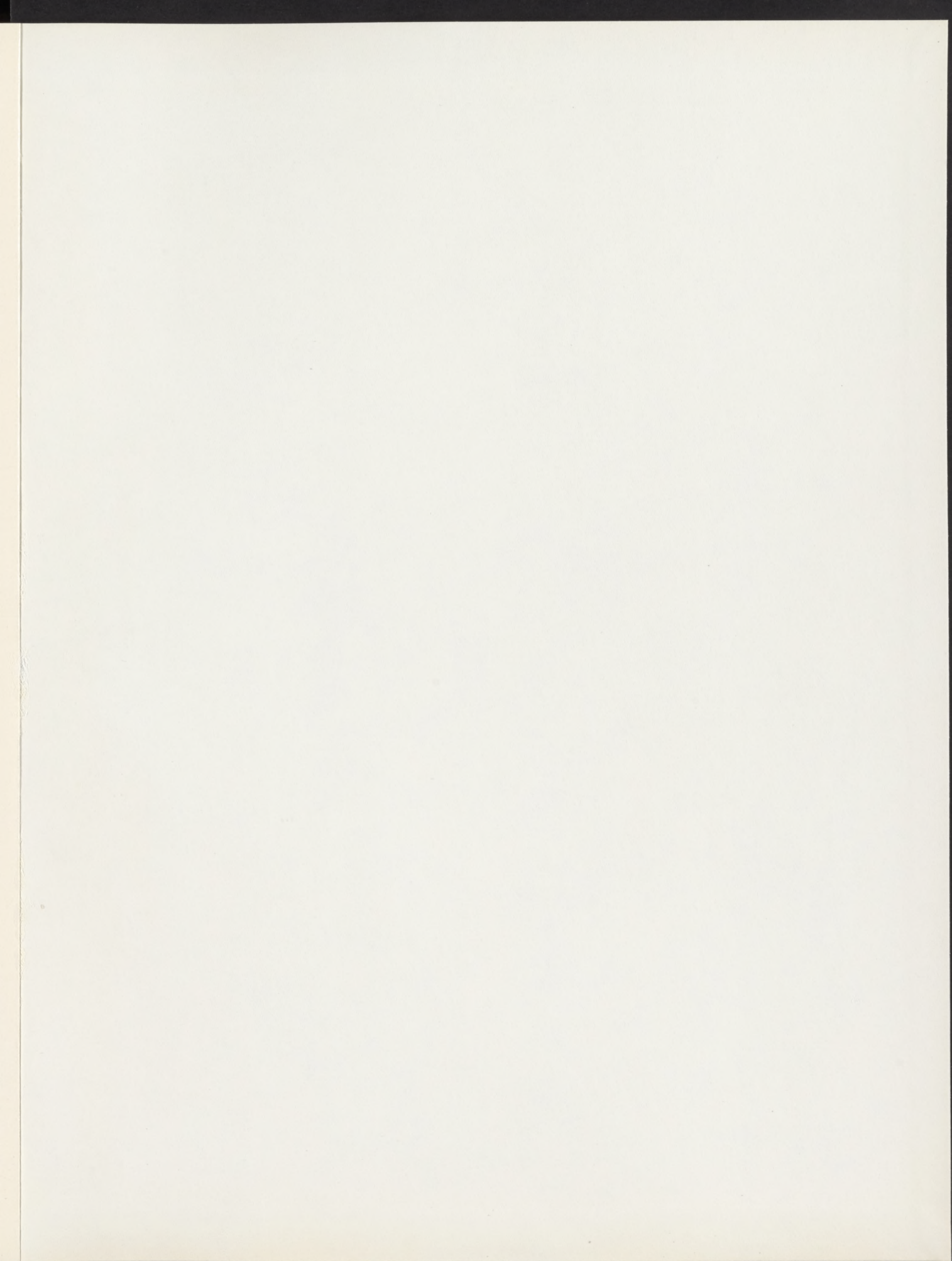
Many world altitude gliding records have been set in past years in Inyo county, with pilots from all over the world riding the famous "Sierra Wave" over Owens Valley. (Photo by Bob Symons).



Upper—The Inyo Creamery played its part in the economy of Bishop and surrounding area in the days when more dairy herds existed. Pickup routes were established and milk cans of cream, which had been processed on the farm, were delivered to the creamery and churned into butter for local consumption and marketed outside the valley.—Photo from collection of C. Lorin Ray. Lower—The raising of chickens and eggs was a part of the agricultural picture of the past in Owens Valley.—Photo from collection of Fred Stuetig.



Upper—Taken at the change of the century this photo shows Mt. Tom, center background, and the intersection of Main and West Line Streets. It was a day for the exhibiting of pedigreed horses. Lower—During World War II Manzanar was the site of one of the west coast's largest relocation centers. Inhabitants of the center maintained their own schools and and hospital and supplied their own food needs from crops planted there.—Photos from C. Lorin Ray Collection.





Legend—Back Cover

Upper left—As the fall season takes over this scene of cattle grazing is a familiar one in Owens Valley—Photo by C. Lorin Ray.

Upper center—Mt. Whitney Trout Hatchery near Independence—Photo by Dorothy C. Cragen.

Upper right—Summer scene at Plant Four on Bishop Creek with Southern California Edison Co. clubhouse in background—Photo by Walter Frost.

Center—Visitors view a grove of Bristlecone Pines at Methuselah Walk. Seventeen trees in group are over 4,000 years old.—Photo by Curt Phillips.

Lower left—Pack train nearing crest of Sierra Nevadas—Courtesy of Alice Boothe.

Lower center—Owens River with snow capped Sierras in background—Photo by C. Lorin Ray.

Lower right—Spring is ushered in with the blooming of Wild Peach on the foothills.—Photo by Russ Johnson.

